

Helsinki prepares for summit while US envoys drum up money for Gulf action

Bush to press Russia to send ground troops

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ANDREW MCEWEN

PRESIDENT Bush will press President Gorbachev to send ground troops to the Gulf when they meet in Helsinki for a summit expected to show an unprecedented display of unity aimed at convincing President Saddam Hussein that he has no hope of keeping Kuwait.

As the final preparations were being made for the Helsinki meeting yesterday, American envoys continued their whistle-stop global tour to drum up financial support for the Gulf operation.

Japan, South Korea, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia all promised support, and the European Community yesterday pledged a multi-billion dollar aid package, including an immediate \$2 billion for the frontline states hit hardest by the UN sanctions and the flood of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait. Japan also said it would contribute another \$12 million to help more than 70,000 Asian refugees fleeing the Middle East.

Tomorrow's summit is likely to show that the differences between Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev are minor compared with their areas of agreement and will remove any lingering doubts that the Soviet Union is an unwilling supporter of the blockade.

A senior administration official in Washington indicated that Mr Bush would ask Mr Gorbachev to join the international force in the Gulf, and said: "A demonstration of the multilateralism of the forces by adding representation from one of the major powers would be useful." Mr Bush also wants the Soviet Union to withdraw its military advisers from Iraq, to tone down its calls for a United Nations military role and to shelve its idea of an international conference on the Middle East that would discuss Israeli as well as Iraqi expansionism.

If Mr Gorbachev agreed to send troops, it would be the first time Soviet and American forces had stood alongside each other since the second world war, but he has said that the Soviet Union would participate in the naval blockade only if the force were put

under UN supervision, a proposition that is unacceptable to the United States.

Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, yesterday said that the Soviet Union was making the utmost efforts to pull its military advisers out of Iraq, but he

reinforced his country's determination that the UN should have a dominant role in any military action. The main aim of the summit would be to search for a peaceful end to the conflict, although he said the Soviet Union had no miracle solution. He emphasised the basic unity of purpose between the two superpowers, saying: "Had this occurred during the days of the cold war, we would have been on the brink of nuclear war and our nuclear arsenals would have been on high alert."

Mr Shevardnadze, speaking in Tokyo, also promoted again the idea of a Middle East conference, although the foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov emphasised yesterday that Mr Shevardnadze was not directly linking the Gulf conflict and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The two leaders are also likely to discuss the Soviet Union's need for economic aid, although the White House denied yesterday that Mr Bush would seek to make Soviet military participation in the Gulf the price for such help. They will also address the subject of cutting strategic missiles and conventional forces in Europe.

America meanwhile continued its search elsewhere for financial and military support with a request to Nato allies to provide ships and aircraft to ferry supplies for American forces in the Gulf.

Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, yesterday met the Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, to seek further contributions to America's

\$28 billion international appeal. Japan has said it will offer \$1 billion to support the forces in the Gulf, but says it can offer no more in the present financial year. However, it promised to help Egypt, Jordan and Turkey. Before going to Tokyo, Mr Brady visited South Korea, where President Roh voiced support but declined to make any specific commitment.

In Rome, EC foreign ministers promised \$2 billion in immediate aid to the frontline states, but decided against contributing to the American operation. Instead, the 12 would make their own contributions individually.

Tom King, the defence secretary, told the Commons yesterday that the British force in the region was costing £1 million a day, and deployment and additional equipment costs already amounted to £75 million. Even so, economists calculate the benefit to Britain of the higher oil prices is much higher and could add about £1 billion to the balance of trade in a full year. The rise in oil prices would also add almost £1 billion to the budget surplus. This includes extra government revenue from higher North Sea oil prices and increased VAT on petrol.

The Saudi budget also stands to benefit substantially from the decision to raise oil production earlier this week from 5.4 million to 7.4 million barrels a day. Gross extra revenue would add more than \$20 billion to Saudi finances over a full year.



Free again: Sarah Morris-Jones, aged 27, with her two-year-old son, Julian, are welcomed by her sister, Charlotte Mikliszenica, at Gatwick airport after arriving from Jordan yesterday on the last leg of their escape from Kuwait.

They joined a convoy of buses which drove for 15 hours across the desert to Baghdad. Mrs Morris-Jones, who hopes to return to her home in Bahrain next month, said: "I felt like a hunted animal. We felt like prisoners and became too scared to go anywhere. At first we thought there was going to be a war and resigned ourselves to getting stuck in Kuwait for years. But then we grew more optimistic and thought we had a chance to get out."

position of certification officer was established 14 years ago, to ensure that unions act within the law, that legal action has been instigated by it against a union.

A spokeswoman for Mr Wake said: "The summary criminal charges follow consideration of the Lightman report and other inquiries, and allege failure to keep proper accounting records, to maintain a satisfactory system of accounting control and to submit true and fair accounts to the certification officer in the annual report for 1989."

Mr Scargill refused to comment as he had not heard officially from the certification officer.

The charges follow the publication of the report by Gavin Lightman, QC, which disclosed that Mr Scargill and officials of the union ran 17 secret accounts without the knowledge of members of the national executive committee.

Scargill charged over accounting

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

SUMMARY criminal charges were yesterday laid against Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, at Sheffield magistrates' court, alleging failure to keep proper accounts.

It now seems certain that unions can expect new legislation covering their conduct. A spokesman for the department of employment said: "The government will not hesitate to bring forward fresh legislation which is necessary to protect and secure union members' rights in relation to the conduct of their union's financial affairs."

The charges, laid by Matthew Wake, the trade union certification officer, also involve Peter Heathfield, the NUM general secretary, and the union itself. The two men and the national executive committee face three charges each. They face a maximum £400 fine on each charge. It is the first time since the

Thatcher softens Forsyth blow

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND KERRY GILL

A PERSONAL appeal from the prime minister yesterday persuaded Michael Forsyth to stay in the government while relinquishing his post as chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party.

The future of the Scottish Office minister was settled over lunch at No 10 and Margaret Thatcher softened the blow of his dismissal from his party post by promoting him to minister of state level within his department and widening his responsibilities to include the key education portfolio. She also promised him a special role in the formulation of policy for the next Tory manifesto.

Mr Forsyth is replaced as party chairman by Lord Sanderson of Bowden, aged 56, a Scot who has held high office north of the border and who was until recently a powerful backroom figure in the English party. He gives up his post as minister of state in Scotland to run the party machine full time.

Earlier, Mr Forsyth, aged 35, the focus of feuding between left and right among Scottish Tories, had been inclined to resign from the government if forced to step down as chairman. That prospect was averted.

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Forsyth power saga, page 2

Leading article, page 13

UK 'will not be bound to UN'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, emphasised at the end of the two-day emergency Commons debate on the Gulf yesterday that Britain would not feel bound to seek the authority of the United Nations for stepping up military action.

"It cannot be right to put that choice totally and wholly within the machinery of the United Nations," Mr Hurd said. "We know that machinery includes vetoes. We cannot allow our responses to be blocked by such means. If we were to leave open that position, Saddam Hussein could go away rejoicing in possession of Kuwait. We must prevent that from happening."

Mr Hurd emphasised that the defeat of Saddam Hussein would be brought about by sanctions, isolation and the certainty of defeat. He said that reducing the uncertainties by turning over all decisions to the UN would reduce the prospect of a peaceful settlement by giving the Iraqi leader new hope of a fudged result.

The government had an overwhelming majority of 402 at the end of the debate in which Tom King, the defence secretary, disclosed that the operating cost of British forces

Continued on page 24, col 5

The vote, page 6

The debate, page 7



Small buyers lap up 'vintage of the century'

From CHARLES BRENNER, NEW YORK, and PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

WALL Street is sagging and the Impressionists have soared out of sight, so where are American investors putting their money this autumn? Into wine. Not the old, established *millésimés*, however, but 1989 Bordeaux, the "vintage of the century", although it will not be ripe for the table for another decade at least.

From coast to coast thousands of buyers who have never dabbled in wine before are ordering the better known *châteaux*, all of it still sitting in casks around Bordeaux, and sending prices through the roof. In New York, a "futures" contract on '89 *Château Petrus* costs \$250 (£131) a bottle.

For some experts, the quality of the 1989 vintage justifies the enthusiasm, sight unseen. "It's like looking at a

pretty baby and saying 'this kid's going to be Raquel Welch'," says Robert Dickinson, a Miami connoisseur. Nine of 22 Bordeaux growers rated the 89s as "Vintage of the Century" for a leading French wine magazine - although, as one supplier pointed out, that means that 13 demurred.

"It's quite extraordinary," said Harvey Savatsky, a manager at Zachy's Wine and Liquor. He took a page advertisement in *The New York Times* yesterday to proclaim: "There is a frenzy in the bidding... are the Bordeaux prices going up? Yes!" Mr Savatsky confirms widespread reports that many customers are not connoisseurs but ingenuities trying their hand in wine for the first time.

The rush to Bordeaux '89 was assured last autumn, when the American network media reported on the

excellent Bordelais summer. "That had never happened before," says John Laird, of Seagram's. "I mean, who in Dubuque or Peoria cares if the French have got a good vintage?"

Then came the galactic predictions of French and US wine journals. The most influential was Robert Parker Jr, the man whose early forecasts set off the buying spree for the 1982 Bordeaux. In the spring he rated it 90 or higher out of 100.

In France, the word in the business was that rather more of the wine than is usual was being held back. The price began to rise, gladdening the heart of owners of the great *châteaux*, who these days include the Japanese as well as the British. Although the value of production has virtually doubled over the past decade, many if not most *châteaux* operate on surprisingly narrow profit margins: barely 3 per

cent in the case of Margaux, if trade gossip is accurate.

Mr Laird says that prices have reached the point where "wine is no longer wine, but a collectible" and as such, the price is not likely to fall as it did, for example, in the crash of the mid 1970s. The real problem, he says, is that lower-level labels will also soar beyond the consumer's reach.

Financial experts urge caution, pointing out that a wine future cannot be compared with coffee or pork-bellies.

New York's panic purchases are unlikely to be repeated in Britain (Jane MacQuitty, wine correspondent, writes). Claret drinkers will have already bought their bottles of '89 Bordeaux when they were at their cheapest, in the spring of this year. The first '89 clarets will not appear on supermarket shelves until next year.

Saturday Review

Is this man serious?



George Michael, former Wham! singer, talks to Bryan Appleyard about past excesses and future successes in the field of serious popular music

The Christie inheritance

With Agatha Christie's centenary approaching, her daughter recalls life with mother and *The Times* offers a special set of Christie novels

New art of the grand tour

Political change has opened eastern European art to Western eyes

WEEKEND LIVING

Give a dog a better name



Jack Russell, worse than a Rotweiler? Last week's accusation has the breeders snarling

Finding France in Britain

Where to shop for goods with a certain *je ne sais quoi*

SPORT

The next World Cup winner?



Alan Rothenberg talks about the task of making the 1994 World Cup work in the United States. Plus Simon Barnes on clatrap in Athens

WEEKEND MONEY

Smart cards, big business

The smart card is proliferating to such an extent that many children can now use them to pay for their school meals

Tax troubles

The ending of composite rate tax next April will affect 14 million people. Who gains, who loses?

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A full list of vacancies remaining for degree courses at British universities, polytechnics and colleges will be published on Monday

OS



INDIVIDUALITY. A CLASSIC TIMEPIECE THAT REPRESENTS THE PINNACLE OF THE WATCHMAKERS' ART. THE STEEL AND YELLOW METAL ELITE. PART OF A COMPLETE RANGE OF WATCHES FROM ALFRED DUNHILL.

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How the Forsyth saga started civil war among the Scottish Tories



Forsyth: feuding after exit of the old guard

THE trail of gunpowder that led to the seat of Michael Forsyth was laid last May, ironically at a time when he was being touted as a future Scottish secretary. The men who lit it came from the Scottish Tory Reform Group who had had enough of Mr Forsyth's covert campaign to unseat Malcolm Rifkind.

Mr Forsyth was appointed chairman of the Scottish party in the summer of last year. His task was to streamline its organisation at headquarters and encourage constituency associations to increase grassroots support of Tory policies. In spite of his appointment, popular support for the Tories north of the border has remained in the low 20s at best.

However, it was style of leadership and desire to stick rigidly to what the Scots regarded as undiluted Thatcherism that provoked the anger of the mainstream in the party. Within weeks of Mr Forsyth's

appointment several of the Tory headquarters' old guard were given their marching orders.

Mr Forsyth's supporters, on the party's right wing, openly backed him as a future Scottish secretary leaving him all the more vulnerable to accusations that his main aim was to destabilise the position of Mr Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, in his zest for advancement.

The simmering feud within the party came to a head in May. At the start of the Scottish Tory conference in Aberdeen, William Walker, MP for Tayside North and vice-chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, suggested that Mr Rifkind should be given another post to make way for Mr Forsyth.

One senior Tory said: "If that had not been a set-up, Walker would have been sacked." The incident backfired as almost everyone guessed that Mr Walker was

The prime minister last night prevailed on Michael Forsyth to stay in the government while quitting his post as chairman of the Scottish Tories. Kerry Gill finds the facts behind the feuding.

acting as Mr Forsyth's stooge. Mr Rifkind's supporters, particularly the influential Scottish Tory Reform Group, went on the attack accusing Mr Forsyth of damaging the party's chances at the next general election. They also accused him of failing to support Mr Rifkind on a number of occasions, particularly over the possible axing of the Ravenscraig steel complex.

The fire under Mr Forsyth was further stoked when Douglas Young, the most highly paid official in the Scottish party, resigned last month. It was an open secret

that he decided to give up his job after only eight months because of the in-fighting and slanging matches.

Calls for Mr Forsyth to be replaced followed, and were only heightened by his unexpected decision to leap to the defence of Nicholas Ridley, then trade and industry secretary, after Mr Ridley's comments on the Germans and the French in July. Comparisons were made with his silence when it came to supporting Mr Rifkind. His opponents even decided to publish their own magazine, *True Blue*, seen as an antidote to the *Scottish Conservative* and considered nothing more than a "Thatcher fizzle".

This week, George Younger, the former defence secretary and now chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, admitted that he had been asked by senior Tories if he was interested in taking over as Scottish chairman. He refused, but it was clear that

Mr Forsyth's days were numbered. That was followed by a meeting at which office bearers of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association expressed their concern over events directly to Mr Forsyth.

Mr Forsyth, who has admitted he went to university with socialist sympathies, but quickly became converted to conservatism, began his active political career in 1976 when he was appointed chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students. While living in London the former student at St Andrew's university was elected to Westminster city council. By 1983 he had returned to Scotland, having won the Strirling parliamentary seat.

He held on to Strirling in the 1987 general election with a majority of only 948. While he has been a long-time favourite of Margaret Thatcher, the sheer weight of party opinion in Scotland finally persuaded her that he had to go.

Irish talks agreement is 'close and attainable'

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BELFAST

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, yesterday said that agreement was "close and attainable" on opening full-scale negotiations between unionists and nationalists.

He faced his optimism with some caution that the momentum must not be lost and signalled that the opportunity to advance matters would not remain open indefinitely.

Mr Brooke said: "We are encouragingly close to agreement on a basis for talks which could secure a greater local political input to the business of governing Northern Ireland, establish a new relationship of trust between unionism and nationalism, and

strengthen the relationship between the British and Irish governments."

The Northern Ireland secretary has returned from his summer holiday to display fresh commitment and optimism about his talks about the talks process, in spite of signs that his autumn initiative was starting to come apart.

He is trying to put together a proposal for negotiations between the Northern Ireland constitutional parties on future internal structures. Other key elements include addressing relationships between North and South, and between Britain and Ireland.

A meeting of the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference later this month will address remaining difficulties over at what stage Dublin politicians should become involved in the talks. In July Mr Brooke had to abort a detailed statement to the Commons on the precise decision of his initiative, because of unresolved difficulties over the timetable of the talks on the three sets of relationships and whether these should run parallel with each other.

Yesterday Mr Brooke said that "with commitment and continuing goodwill, the remaining differences between the constitutional politicians can be bridged and the way opened for further political dialogue". Such an outcome would mark a step forward for each constitutional party and for the British and Irish governments.

Mr Brooke, at the Current Affairs Society at St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena, Co Antrim, spoke about addressing the concerns of the minority community at the highest level of decision making, and also the concerns of the majority community about articles two and three of the Irish Republic's Constitution which claims jurisdiction over Northern Ireland.

He said he believed that given political commitment on all sides it remained possible "to take a major step towards accommodating political differences - to make diversity a source of strength rather than a seedbed of strife".

The best long-term prospect for achieving political stability within Northern Ireland, he said, would be to establish a local administration which both parts of the community could support and sustain.

The bilateral talks so far have concentrated on finding a basis for launching more formal discussions. He said they must now have in sight the substantive issues.

Mr Brooke promised to bring the process forward with further bilateral discussions and suggested that this could be speeded up if there were collective discussions.

Protestant terrorists admit killing

THE illegal Ulster Freedom Fighters yesterday claimed responsibility for murdering a man aged 34 at his south Belfast home. He was shot five times in the head, chest and arms.

Gummen broke down the door of Emmanuel Shields' home in Deramore Street, in the early hours while he was in a bedroom with his girlfriend. When they opened fire he died almost immediately. The girl, her brother and two young sons who were also in the house were not injured.

Yesterday the UFF, a Protestant paramilitary group linked to the Ulster Defence Association, claimed responsibility for the killing and alleged that Mr Shields was involved in IRA intelligence operations.

Police said they were not aware of Mr Shields having any links to the IRA.

Representatives of local political parties and churchmen condemned the shooting.

● The British government's broadcasting ban on organisations with alleged terrorist links was upheld by a judge in the High Court in Belfast yesterday.

Mr Justice Carswell dismissed an application for judicial review of the ban, which was introduced in October, 1988.

The case was brought by Mitchell McLaughlin, a Sinn Féin councillor in Derry, whose lawyers argued that the ban breached the Northern Ireland Constitution Act.

● The skipper of the alleged gunrunning vessel Eksund was refused bail by a High Court judge in Dublin yesterday.

Adrian Hopkins, aged 51, from Delany, Co Wicklow, admitted that he had jumped bail while on conditional release in France last July.



Constable's *The Lock*, valued at £15 million and described as one of his best works, which could be lost to the nation

Nation may lose valuable Constable

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

A PAINTING by John Constable worth £15 million may have been lost to the nation because of an alleged soft-soled approach to fund-raising by the National Museum of Wales.

The painting, *The Lock*, was inherited along with the estate of Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, by Elizabeth, Countess of Sudeley, the current Lady Ashcombe. It has now been put up for sale, not only to settle outstanding death duties from the estate but also to satisfy complex provisions in the will.

A spokesman for the Sudeley trustees said: "No-one wanted to sell the painting. The trustees of the castle felt that rather than having to sell a lot of paintings from the collection, they would sell just one."

The Sudeley trustees offered the painting to the National Museum of Wales for £10 million, but as it has failed so far to raise the funds, it is now scheduled for sale at Sotheby's this autumn.

Heritage lobbyists believe that had the museum made its interest in the painting public, the funds may have been raised. Jane Stancliffe, grants officer at the National Art Collections Fund, one of the public fund raising bodies concerned for the future of the painting, said, however, that Timothy Stevens, the museum's curator of art, had been working most energetically behind the scenes to raise the money.

Lord and Lady Ashcombe are currently in America and Mr Stevens, who was also unavailable for comment.

Constable expert Graham Reynolds has described *The Lock* as "one of the finest examples of Constable's canal painting". The painter himself said in a letter: "My friends told me it is my best."

The painting is the fifth in Constable's series of six scenes on the river Stour. Flatford Lock is seen from a low viewpoint, full of water, with a barge in the basin while the lock-keeper opens the gates.

Collecting, page 19

Major counters 'frenetic speculation' on ERM

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday countered speculation that sterling would join the European exchange rate mechanism this weekend.

He ruled out an announcement being made at an informal meeting of European Community finance ministers in Rome today. He did nothing, however, to suggest there was any warning in the government's enthusiasm for entry.

In an interview on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said the fact that Britain would join was no longer in dispute. "As soon as I think there is a window and we have credibly met the conditions we have set out, into the mechanism we will go."

Mr Major said that inflation was expected to rise beyond 10 per cent before falling. He refused to say whether inflation at 10 per cent was too high a rate at which to enter the mechanism or whether inflation necessarily had to be falling before Britain could

enter. He said the recent frenetic speculation had not been helpful.

He said inflation could be affected next month by increased oil prices and the long problems with the drought which could affect fresh food prices.

He underlined it was the "proximate" rate of inflation compared with other EC states which would have to be considered and many of the factors which affected the British retail price index would also affect the rate of inflation in other countries.

He repeated that the other main conditions for entry had been more or less met, it depended on inflation.

Mr Major said the oil companies had moved promptly in raising petrol prices. "Let us hope they move equally promptly in the other direction if the oil price were to stabilise or fall."

The Chancellor said there were some unambiguous signals that his interest rate

clampdown on consumption to cut inflation was having the desired effect, although there was still some way to go before the cost of borrowing could be cut.

"I'm not going to cut interest rates until I'm sure it is safe to do so," Mr Major said. "The purpose of policy is to bring inflation down and that does mean we need to keep a firm policy to ensure that we do so. We will have to make a judgment as to when it is the right time to relax monetary policy - but not yet, I think."

In spite of signs of company failures, profit cuts and rising unemployment, he did not believe Britain was heading for a recession because of high interest rates.

Mr Major said he expected a sympathetic hearing in Rome for his plans for European economic and monetary union, his alternative to the EC proposals for an early move to a single currency.

Business News, page 34

Shell and Esso follow BP as £3 gallon is predicted

By DAVID YOUNG

SHELL and Esso have followed BP in the latest round of petrol price rises by announcing increases of 8.6p and 5p in the price of a gallon of four-star petrol, as drivers were warned that they could shortly see the £3 gallon.

Any fighting in the Gulf would lead to a big surge of the open-market cost of petrol, which would be quickly passed on to motorists, city analysts said yesterday. The price of a gallon of four-star unleaded has risen to an average of 230.9p, and the petrol companies are predicting further increases.

One city analyst said: "Fighting could lead to oil fields being damaged, and that would have an enormous impact on the oil markets. People would still fill up their cars if petrol reached £3, but you might find some of them not driving them around quite so much." The Shell rise, which takes effect from

Monday, means that the overall cost of its leaded four-star will be 230.9p a gallon, exactly the same as BP. Shell diesel also goes up 8.6p, taking it to 194.6p a gallon. Esso four-star will cost 230.9p a gallon from today.

Esso said that its new price was based on an open market cost for petrol of about \$400 a tonne, whereas the market had been trading at up to \$420 a tonne for the past few days. Shell added that since the beginning of August the open market price had risen by the equivalent of 27.8p a gallon while Shell's four-star, excluding duty and VAT, had increased by 22.7p a gallon.

A Shell spokesman said that the company would "continue to attempt to restrain wholesale prices, as far as is compatible with the necessity to regain profitability to ensure the viability of its petrol wholesaling business". He said that if the recent trend of

increases in open market prices continued it would inevitably lead to further rises at the pump.

BP also used the open-market price as justification for yesterday's increase, although it estimated that the figure was presently running at about \$415 a tonne. The Shell increase was the first of what are expected to be a number of similar increases by other petrol companies.

Since the Gulf crisis, pump prices of four-star have risen by more than 20p. John Wakeham, energy secretary, has been asked to make the oil companies reduce the price of petrol to the pre-crisis level.

Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, has also tabled a Commons question to Mr Wakeham pressing him to force the companies to seek approval from the department before making any more price rises. He said it was profiteering at a time of national crisis.

Threat to oil rigs as catering staff back strike call

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

A TOTAL stoppage of oil production in the northern sector of the North Sea moved nearer yesterday when catering workers on the rigs and floating drilling platforms voted overwhelmingly for strike action.

The move could close three quarters of Britain's oil rigs and have a significant effect on the country's balance of payments. The dispute is separate from the recent wildcat action taken by offshore contract workers in the North Sea.

Announcing the ballot result, which showed a majority of six to one in favour of strike action by the 2,000 catering workers, Fred Higgs, national officer for the transport workers' union said: "Without catering the rigs cannot operate. It's as simple as that."

Armed with the ballot result, shop stewards from the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Seamen will meet next week to discuss future moves, which could range from a total and indefinite strike to a series of 24-hour stoppages.

Mr Higgs said the action was being taken because the pay of catering workers on the semi-submersible rigs was on average 12 per cent less than their colleagues on the permanent platforms, who earned between £14-18,000 a year. "A strike by catering workers on the oil rigs would obviously be a crippling blow to the industry. It would bring operations in the North Sea to a standstill within hours."

During previous strikes by catering workers essential services have been maintained with the help of supervisory staff. Mike Collins, chairman of the Catering Offshore Trades' Association, said: "We will always feed the people offshore. There is no question of that." He said he

was optimistic that the dispute could be resolved.

"If the unions want to resolve this matter they will come back to the table they left two months ago. We have had very good relations with the unions for the past ten years and I am sure they will talk to us about these difficulties."

Next week, union officials will meet to compile a register of all North Sea workers who have been involved in recent 24-hour stoppages so they can be balloted for an all-out indefinite strike in support of their demands for union recognition and a say in health and safety matters.

The offshore industry liaison committee, the unofficial group fighting for an industry-wide employment agreement including union recognition for contractors' men, is considering its next moves. After a meeting of the committee in Glasgow yesterday, Ronald McDonald, the group's chairman, said further unofficial action was planned but gave no date.

Legal action on Lambeth poll tax

THE legal action to take legal action to force the south London borough of Lambeth to reduce its community charge after the deadline given by the environment department passed last night (Ray Clancy writes).

The council, which revised its £548 community charge to £521.63 after being capped, is refusing to reduce the charge to the £493 demanded by Chris Patten, the environment secretary. In a letter to Mr Patten two days ago, the council's chief executive said that the present charge was lawful.

The legal action comes half way through the financial year and at a time when it has been disclosed that in many areas more than half of those eligible have not yet paid any poll tax.

Widespread anxiety, page 6

Protesters jailed

Two peace campaigners who caused nearly £250,000 damage to an F-111 nuclear bomber at a US air base in Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire, were each jailed for 15 months yesterday. Stephen Hancock, aged 24, and Michael Hutchinson, aged 35, claimed they were acting to aid the survival of the human race. The two men were caught as they attacked the aircraft with heavy mallets.

Duke banned

The Duke of Westminster was banned from driving for three months and fined £200 yesterday after pleading guilty to speeding at up to 114mph.

Dunstable magistrates' court was told that he was stopped by a police patrol car in lane on the M1 near Toddington, Bedfordshire. In February, the duke was disqualified for 14 days and fined £120 by magistrates in Stroud, Gloucestershire, for speeding at 106 mph.

Air insurance

Scheduled airline passengers may soon get the same protection as package tourists under plans being discussed by the travel industry for compensation in the event of an airline collapse. Scheduled airlines, which are carrying more package tourists, are not at present bound to provide automatic insurance or to guarantee the return journeys of their passengers should they suddenly go out of business.

Prince leaves

The Prince of Wales leaves hospital today, seven days after the three-hour operation to repair his broken right arm, broken in a polo accident. The prince, who was originally expected to remain at the Queen's medical centre, Nottingham, for up to 10 days, will be flown by helicopter to Highgrove, his Gloucestershire home. The Princess of Wales is expected to travel with him.

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Parents fight for children's return after satanic tales

By RONALD FAUX

PARENTS of 12 children in Rochdale, Lancashire, are fighting to have their children returned from local authority care, claiming that the social services department had over-reacted to the "satanic fantasies" of a boy.

Seventeen children from five families were taken into care five months ago after the boy, aged seven, had talked of friends killing babies in satanic rituals and burying their bodies in a cemetery. Five were returned to their families but remain wards of court. A High Court injunction preventing the parents from seeking publicity or journalists from enquiring about the case was varied yesterday.

The mother at the centre of the controversy, whose four children were taken into care, said: "This is all down to comics and videos and the wild fantasies of a little lad whose imagination runs away with him." She said that after her son had been questioned by social services officers she had been accused of being involved in satanic rituals. The man she lives with was arrested.

"The others taken into care were the children of friends and the only counsel has been my boy and his fantasies," she said. The man was told the boy had been talking about stabbing babies and that all the family had been doing this.

The man said: "I could not believe what I was hearing. He had told them this ghost would open his window and

take him out. He had a drink like tea which fizzed up. When he drank it, the man who gave it to him grew to over 9ft tall. Then he flew out of the window and went to the cemetery. I thought this was too ridiculous for words, totally beyond belief. The police searched and investigated and found nothing."

The man was released and told no further action would be taken. Greater Manchester police said last night that between March and June a joint police and social services investigation was made in Rochdale into allegations of ritualistic child abuse. As a result 17 children were taken into council care, 12 of whom remained in care and were wards of court. No criminal proceedings had been taken.

Supporting the parents' campaign to have their children returned is Judy Parry, of Manchester Childwatch. She said the case was a scandal and a travesty of parents' basic rights to protect their children. "The social services deliberately set out to make sure these parents had no way of fighting for their kids. They were gagged at every turn."

Police investigations had found no evidence to support claims of satanism and woodoo. Gordon Littlemore, director of social services in Rochdale, said: "The children's welfare is being regularly reviewed by social services staff and the High Court. While the children remain wards of court, I cannot comment."



Pruning: a quarter of the root system and a number of overhanging branches are to be removed, possibly extending its life by 50 years. Bubbling over: champagne is uncorked as a victory time is played



Celebrated chestnut tree wins a new lease of life

By DANIEL TREISMAN

TREE-LOVERS uncorked champagne and a piper played a victory tune as a 150-year-old horse chestnut won another lease of life yesterday.

In a compromise move, tree surgeons pruned branches and parts of the roots rather than cut it down. The 72ft tree, in St Paul's Shrubbery, Islington, north London, has become a cause célèbre for local nature enthusiasts, who have slept in hammocks in its branches to save it.

Peter Elliott, a chartered accountant who lives nearby, complained that the tree was damaging his wall and obtained a court order to have the "nuisance" removed. Islington council yesterday said, however, that the pruning should fulfil this requirement. Peter Bonsall, head of the council's parks department, said: "We are advised by our legal people that the work carried out today will satisfy the court order."

Around the tree's trunk, where postcards of support from around the world have been pinned, campaigners and local residents drank champagne.

rang bells and collected fallen conkers. Robin Maynard, a campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "It is something of a victory. We believe the wall, the tree, Mr Elliott, and local residents can all co-exist."

Don Baldry, a local resident, said: "People round here are delighted. We've all put a lot of work into it and a lot of time. The tree is part of the history of the area."

Keith Rushforth, a tree consultant supervising the work, said that about a quarter of the root system and a number of overhanging branches would be removed. "The tree should not suffer too much shock and could well live for another 50 years," John Gough, Mr Elliott's solicitor, said: "If they have moved the branches and roots which overhang and intrude on his property, they will have complied with the order and that will be fine."

David Chipko, an ecologist with the Hackney Tree Group, who had just descended from a night spent in the tree, said: "It's a compromise: both sides have won."

Ambassador lodges strong protest over meat attacks

By PHIL JACOBSON IN PARIS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

A STRONG protest about the attacks by French farmers on lorries carrying meat from Britain was lodged yesterday by the British ambassador in Paris. Sir Ewen Ferguson told the French interior minister, Pierre Joxe, of the "deep concern" felt in London over incidents such as last Thursday's slaughter of almost 400 sheep seized near Limoges while a squad of riot police looked on.

In London, David Clark, the Labour agriculture spokesman, called for an emergency meeting of EC farm ministers to avert what he feared could be an escalation in violence on both sides of the Channel after an attack yesterday on a French lorry driver on the M2 near Chatham in Kent.

Dr Clark said: "I believe the French farmers are likely to take revenge and I fear that a British lorry driver may end up harmed or even killed. We should warn the French that unless measures are taken against the people responsible for destroying British lamb, the case will be referred to the European Court of Justice."

French lorry driver attacked in Kent

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

KENT detectives were yesterday at the bedside of a French lorry driver discovered near the M2 in the early hours after being forced from the cab of his vehicle and beaten by a gang of attackers.

Chief Inspector John Stockham of Chatham police said that investigators were not discounting the possibility that the attack might have been inspired by French attacks on British lamb cargoes. He said: "We have all seen the pictures on the TV news and many people have been sickened by what they have seen. But we just don't know if that has sparked off this attack. The lorry wasn't touched which rules out a hijack."

Julie Mate, area spokesman for the National Farmers Union, said: "We deplore such an attack. If this was a case of revenge it will do

nothing but harm to our relationship with the French. It is already strained. We totally condemn this action."

The attack on Eric Gunther aged 28, from Montigny-en-Gohelle in northern France, took place early yesterday morning near Chatham. Mr Gunther was forced on to the hard shoulder of the road by a Ford Fiesta carrying three men. The men, armed with a baseball bat, pulled the driver out of his cab to beat him up and then damaged his lorry. They smashed the headlights, windscreen and tachograph.

Mr Gunther was found by a passing motorist and taken to Medway hospital. His condition is not said to be serious. He works for a company called Giraud Sonnaux, based in Roussillon in southeast France. The lorry was carrying a cargo of pharmaceuticals.

in France it is an illustration of the danger that rising tension breeds". Sir Ewen made clear to M Joxe the growing frustration in London over the lack of effective police action against French farmers, whether in preventing attacks on lorries or bringing those responsible to court.

He said he had been assured by M Joxe that investigations were being pursued into incidents that had occurred.

After the latest killing of British lambs, French television showed the farmers responsible joking as they threw the carcasses into the front garden of the local sous-préfecture. As one brandished the severed head, riot police could be seen taking a cigarette break.

Brigitte Bardot has called for farmers involved in such incidents to be tried and punished. In a letter to President Mitterrand, the film actress turned animal rights activist, said it was shameful that such behaviour should be tolerated. "Have cowardice and cruelty become the two breads from which France feeds?" she asked.

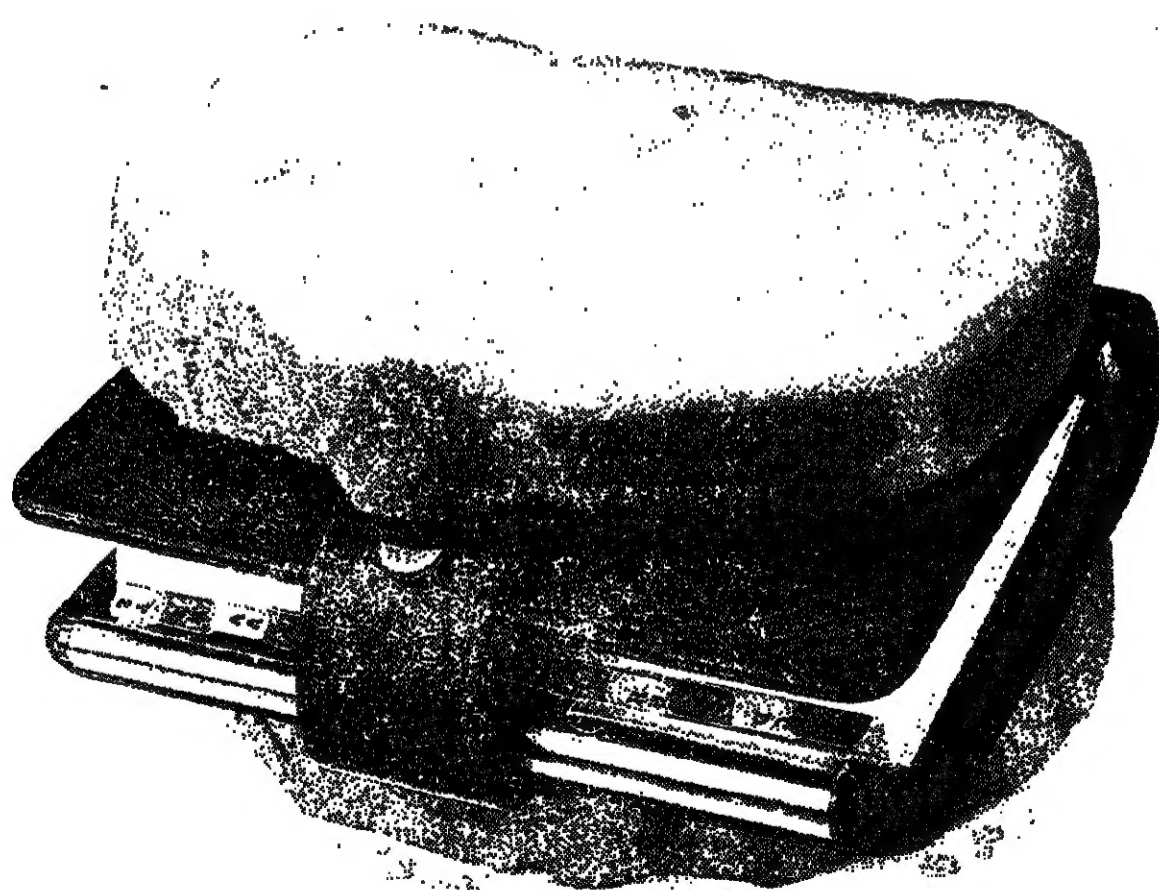
In Cardiff, Cernat Davies, chairman of the Welsh branch of the National Farmers' Union, delivered a petition to the office of the European Commission, urging intervention by Brussels.

Welsh farmers said they were worried that young militants might retaliate against imports of Irish beef, which they fear could flood into Britain now that Irish producers have lost markets in Kuwait and Iraq because of the Gulf conflict.

Cyril Lewis, who has a sheep farm at Penmachno, Gwynedd, said: "We do not import much meat from France and Irish imports would be an easier target. Some young farmers believe that if Irish imports are blocked, Dublin would step up pressure on the French to take tougher action against their farmers."

Farmers in northwest England handed in letters of protest to the French Trade Commission and the French consular office in Manchester and Liverpool.

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£1m waitress to stay at work

By LIN JENKINS

A WAITRESS earning £2.75 an hour who has inherited £1 million from her father said yesterday that she would continue to work at her local Little Chef.

Jacqueline Swain, aged 27, did not know that her father, William Browne, a former farm labourer who came over from Ireland in the 40s, was wealthy. Throughout his career as a factory hand, painter and decorator, however, he had bought land and properties. Some he improved and sold, and others he kept.

Mrs Swain, who married two months ago and lives in a council house in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, said: "It was quite a shock when I found out how much my father had left. I knew he owned land and property, but nothing like this."

Mrs Swain now plans to move, but has no

intention of giving up her job. "I have been at the cafe for a year and would be sad to leave," she said. "I enjoy the atmosphere and dealing with customers."

She said she greatly missed her father, who died in January aged 65. "We were very close. My father never married my mother and never lived with us, but lived in a village about 10 miles away and kept in close contact."

She added: "Although he did not stay with us, all my memories of him are happy and warm. He was a larger-than-life character, always full of fun and making me laugh."

Mrs Swain said that her father would only buy things if he really needed them, although he was not mean. "I never dreamed he was worth so much money, but he made it from nothing and took care of it. Now I feel that I must do the same and be careful," she said.

Number of classes without teachers now 'infinitesimal'

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE first official survey of teacher shortages at the start of the new school year shows a dramatic decline in the number of vacancies still to be filled by local education authorities.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, presenting figures for 82 of the 112 authorities at a press conference yesterday, said that the number of classes without a teacher was infinitesimal. The authorities had filled 19,000 posts over the summer and now had only 1,400 vacancies.

The figures include returns from all the inner London boroughs, which were the worst affected by shortages when the department conducted its last full survey in January. The number of vacancies has fallen by 72 per cent since then.

Mr MacGregor said his survey disproved Labour forecasts that 130,000 pupils would start the year without a properly qualified permanent teacher. "The Labour party survey just got it wrong. It was done in August, did not cover as many authorities, and I believe it was complete scaremongering, which was

actually damaging to the education service and an insult to those authorities that have done so well."

Only Hackney, in east London, and Manchester were known to have turned children away from schools because of teacher shortages. Others had covered all vacancies through the use of unattached or supply teachers.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said he stood by his estimate. "The argument is not about whether there is any adult in front of a class but whether those who are, are permanent and properly qualified."

Mr Straw said the department's survey had produced an artificially low figure by failing to distinguish between posts filled by permanent teachers and those on temporary appointments, even for a term. "There is a world of difference between filling a post with a permanent teacher and having it temporarily filled on a term-by-term basis, as thousands of children who have had to put up with a succession of temporary staff can testify."

The department's survey

recorded fewer than half the number of vacancies reported by the same authorities at the start of the last school year. A national picture will be produced once the remaining authorities have responded.

Mr MacGregor said that the improvement had been achieved by government policies and the efforts of local authorities. But he stressed that there would be continuing difficulties in recruiting teachers throughout the 1990s, particularly in subjects such as maths, physics, technology and modern languages.

The 1,400 vacancies identified in the survey were split almost equally between primary and secondary schools. They compared with 4,910 vacancies in the same areas in January and 2,590 last September.

In London, school authorities have had to put new recruits into classrooms before receiving results of police screening. Scotland Yard is taking up to six weeks to carry out vetting because of the increase in requests for information created by the boroughs' recruitment drives and staff shortages.



On equal terms: Alice Ford, left, and Gabriella Ashton in the new uniform designed for girls attending The King's school, Canterbury, which has admitted girls to the sixth form for some years but this term becomes fully co-educational.

Reading theory conflict comes out into open

The way in which primary pupils learn to read is the subject of heated exchanges, John O'Leary reports, with the departure from traditional methods being blamed for an apparent fall in standards among children aged seven.

FEW subjects cause such bitter divisions in the educational world as the teaching of reading. The report that prompted John MacGregor, the education secretary, to launch an enquiry into reading standards in primary schools has caused heated exchanges in the educational press over the past two months and is now making national headlines.

At the centre of the dispute is the "real books" movement started by Frank Smith, the American educationist, who claimed that reading could not be taught. Supporters of the theory believe that traditional teaching methods give children decoding skills without developing a proper understanding of the meaning of words. They say that children acquire genuine reading skills only through exposure to literature and the adoption of role models, such as teachers and parents, who show them the value of books.

The "real books" method won over a significant number of education theorists in the 1980s, when learning through phonics (the breaking down of words into their component parts) came under pressure from other methods, notably "look-say", which teaches children to recognise whole words. That departure from traditional methods is now being blamed for an apparent decline in standards among children aged seven.

Martin Turner, the author of the report, and a growing number of other educationists are convinced that the "real books" method holds back reading development. Mr Turner claims that research on the subject is so conclusive that there is no case for its opponents to answer.

His comparisons of reading assessments in nine local education authorities show a 50 per cent increase over five years in the number of children with severe reading difficulties at the age of seven or eight. The decline coincided with the rise in popularity of the "real books" method and did not show up in other subjects, suggesting that educational

standards as a whole were not falling comparably.

There is little evidence, however, to suggest that the "real books" lobby is dominant in schools. Mr Turner's survey contains no information on teaching methods in the nine local authorities where reading scores have been compared, and few schools are prepared to admit to a wholesale adoption of "real books". Most say that they employ a mixture of methods.

The last investigation by the schools inspectorate took place last year in seven primary schools and found that most employed a systematic reading scheme. "Apprenticeship schemes", involving parents and other adults, were found to be increasingly common, but even these were organised systematically and were usually accompanied by teaching by phonics in school.

Government advisers in the National Curriculum Council have said that children should have access to a variety of reading strategies. The "national" curriculum requires that children learn to read for meaning, not to recognise words on sight as well as using phonics.

Dr Martin Sainsbury, of the National Foundation for Educational Research, said in last week's *Times* supplement, *Education*: "If there are teachers who are using the 'real books' approach in the structured way mentioned by the psychologists, they are in clear breach of their statutory duty, as indeed are teachers who rely solely on word recognition and phonic approaches."



MacGregor has ordered an enquiry into reading.

NUT may press for £100 a week rise

By OUR HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the largest teaching union are being asked to support a claim for pay rises of more than £100 a week for senior classroom teachers. Plans have been made for industrial action, not strikes, if the government refuses to meet the claim.

The National Union of Teachers will hold a conference in November to consider the claim for rises of 10 per cent plus £1,500 for its 190,000 members. The union's executive also wants a restructuring of salary scales in 1992.

A memorandum in support of the claim said that the rises would rectify a 40 per cent decline in real levels of pay since the Houghton enquiry of 1974. It said that teaching will remain a low status, low-paid

occupation unless government policies change, and it links teacher shortages with the decline in salaries.

The claim would raise starting salaries from £9,000 to £11,951 and would give classroom teachers with 11 years experience £21,300 compared with their present £16,000. In the following year, the starting salary would be £12,500 and the top of the main scale £23,000. Head teachers and their deputies, who are paid on different scales, would receive similar rises.

The memorandum recommends a wide range of sanctions, where possible applied in association with other unions.

The maintenance of public and parental support is, however, a key consideration.

Rail crash warning

More fatal rail accidents will happen if overworked drivers continue to operate trains, the final day of the Stafford inquiry was told. Philip Sutton, a driver, worked 25 consecutive days before the crash at Stafford station on August 4 this year, the inquiry heard. Mr Sutton, aged 36, from Lichfield, Staffordshire, died when his empty stock train went through a caution light and ploughed into the Manchester to Penzance express, injuring 35 people. Steve Knight, general editor of *Rail Magazine*, said: "More money should be spent recruiting staff otherwise we run the risk of overworking employees and that leads to errors and accidents."

SLD choice

Eastbourne Liberal Democrats picked David Bellotti yesterday as their parliamentary candidate to fight the by-election caused by the murder of the Conservative MP Ian Gow. Mr Bellotti is an East Sussex county councillor.

Whistle stop

Council workers who "wolf-whistle" at women in Cambridge have been warned they will face disciplinary hearings for sexual harassment from the city council.

School fire

Sixty-two children were led to safety from St Thomas Moore primary school in Saffron Walden, Essex, when a fire started as builders tarred a new roof.

Tax jobs

The Inland Revenue is to create 350 clerical jobs in Nottingham after moving offices from the South-East.

Hotel go-ahead

Planners have given the property developer Peter De Savary permission to turn Littleton House, his family home near Marlborough, Wiltshire, into a hotel, restaurant and golf complex.

Wasp sting kills

A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Richard Phillips, aged 33, of Wellow, near Bath, after an inquest was told that he had been killed by a wasp sting on his ear.

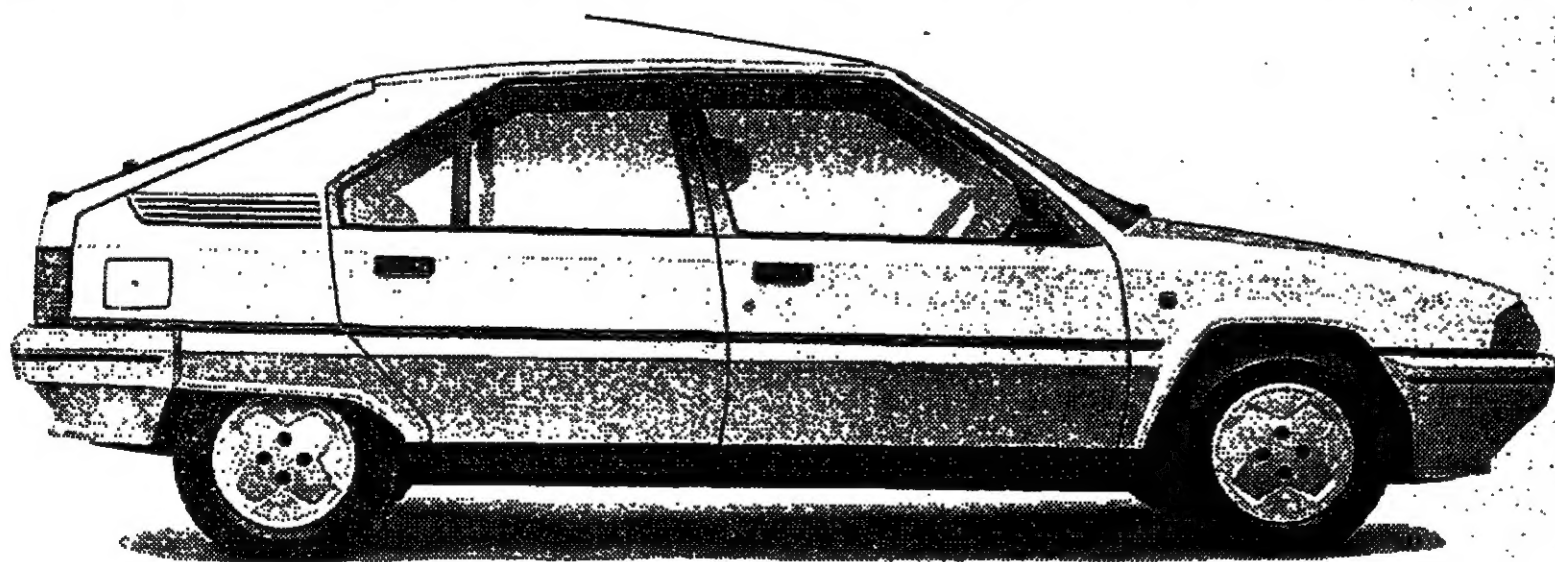
Street siege

Arrest in Hull was evacuated yesterday as armed police negotiated with a man who took a woman hostage in a bedroom. After more than two hours the man gave himself up without a struggle.

Bogus officials

Police in Nottingham have issued a warning to parents after two bogus social workers examined a child.

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SCREENSPORT US College Football

The gridiron season kicks off with a top game from the US College Football League.



SKY ONE In Living Colour

A loud and colourful comedy sketch show featuring America's brightest young comedians makes its British TV premiere this week.



SKY MOVIES Red Heat

Arnold Schwarzenegger teams up with James Belushi in a light-hearted East-meets-West thriller.



LIFESTYLE In Search of Wildlife

Internationally renowned artist David Shepherd looks at ways of preserving endangered species.



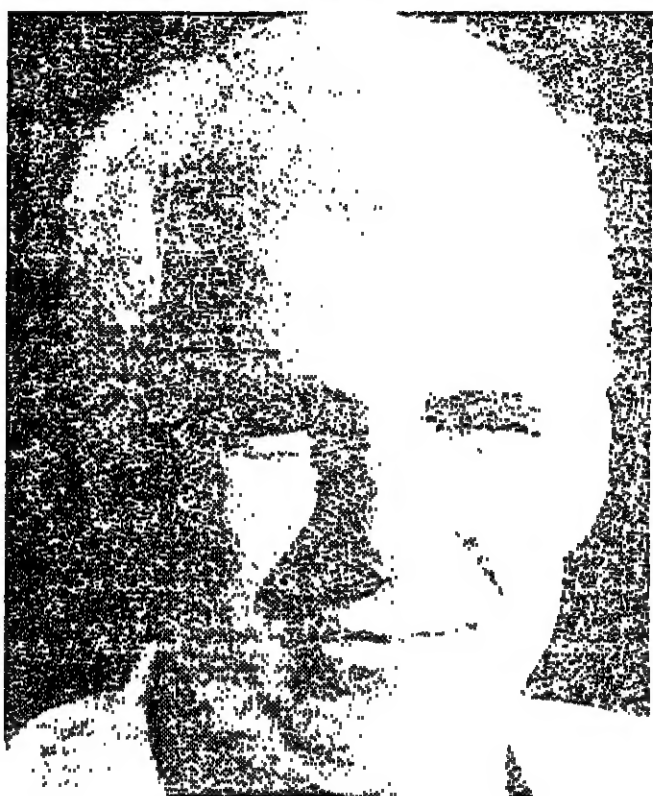
THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL Dungeons & Dragons

Six youngsters are hurtled from an amusement park ride into a world of dragons, demons, wizards and sorcerers.



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By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

National Conference of Priests in Birmingham yesterday. The survey was set up in November after bishops in England and Wales asked priests and churches to investigate the likely consequences of the community charge in specific cases and to monitor their effects. The final results will be submitted to the bishops' conference in November.

By RAY CLANCY

"We feel there is a need for some public statement to be made by Christian groups." While all Christians would deplore the attacks, he said, many had not articulated their feelings.

"If there is anything we can

do to deepen our knowledge and understanding of our Jewish co-believers in the one God, I think that would be a very positive way of app-

A motion passed by the priests said that the anti-semitic attacks were out-

geous and had disfigured society in recent months and promised to encourage more frequent contact between Christians and Jews.

Sir John Mills, whose own brand of stiff upper lip and unruffled demeanour has been the image of the second world war British officer for cinematography for almost half a century, takes a break with a mug of tea and a rock cake at a 1940s Nanai wagon yesterday, after opening an exhibition in Horse Guards Parade, London, that marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain (Simon Tait writes).

is heading an attempt to raise £20 million for the RAF Benevolent Fund. The exhibition, which is to run for a week, features an animated model of Sir Winston Churchill making the speech that gave the nickname "The Few" to the RAF fighter pilots who kept the Luftwaffe invasion at bay in August and September 1940.

A few yards from the new exhibition is the permanent museum created

her war rooms established during the Blitz that followed. There are also Spitfires, Hurricanes, Hurricanes in aircraft on display as well as a Bofors 140/60 anti-aircraft gun and carbon arc lights. The Nazi weapons, pictured above, mounted by two women in uniforms of the period and which provided reinforcement for anti-aircraft gunners, is also on hand in the parade.

The exhibition is open until September.

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By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-four Labour MPs, and the independent Labour MP Dick Douglas, voted against the motion for the adjournment, with an additional two Labour MPs opposing the government. The overwhelming majority of the opponents are on the left of the party but not all are in the far-left. Campaigners for the abolition of the death penalty, including Sir

Speaker, 22 Labour MPs supported the government in the division. With 36 opposing the government this means that of all 223 Labour MPs entitled to vote 59 did not do so. The government was also supported by 15 of the 19 Liberal Democrats, and 14 of the 32 MPs from minority parties.

A total of 476 MPs, including four speakers, took part in the division. With the Speaker and his three deputies not voting, and five seats vacant, this means that 163 MPs were entitled to do so but did not vote. Some 282 Conservative MPs supported the government, which means that 89 of the 371 entitled to vote did not do so. Whips in all the main parties voiced satisfaction at the size of the vote. Labour was on only a one-line whip, and the Conservatives on a two-line whip.

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Hurd against UN veto on use of force in the Gulf

THE British government could not risk allowing the UN to veto the use of force in the Gulf if that was deemed necessary, Douglas Hurd made clear yesterday.

Winding up the two-day emergency debate in the Commons, the foreign secretary said that MPs had accepted overwhelmingly that they could not exclude the military option. Neil Kinnock had accepted that one basis for that could be article 51 joined with a request from the Kuwaiti government. It could not be right to put that choice totally and wholly within the machinery of the UN which included veto.

He said: "We cannot leave open the possibility that necessary action against the aggressor could be blocked by such means. If we were to leave open that possibility, we leave open the possibility that we might go away rejecting in possession of Kuwait and the whole House has undertaken that our first priority must be to prevent that happening."

He said that it had been a calm debate but nevertheless there was a sense of urgency and danger in the air. Britain had nearly 40,000 citizens in the area. During his visit he had found the overwhelming majority leading normal lives and reading with amazement stories that they were in the grip of panic.

However, the aggressor was still there. The wrong had not been put right. "We have to build up pressures on the aggressor until they become intolerable and Iraq has to

leave Kuwait." There were three pressures to be applied: isolation, sanctions and the certainty that he would lose.

Referring to the hostages in Iraq and Kuwait, Mr Hurd said that the House represented those people and their families but not one MP had argued that because of the plight, anxiety, unhappiness and the suffering of the hostages and their families we should weaken or temper this country's response to aggression.

But the hostages were entitled to something which they had — the undertaking that they would not be forgotten or efforts in any way be relaxed to get them out safe and sound. He thought it likely that almost all women and children who wished to leave Kuwait had now had the opportunity to do so.

There were 60,000 new refugees in the three camps in Jordan and about 190,000 had been repatriated. Fifty-five flights out would be organised in the next few days to repatriate 9,000 refugees, mainly Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis. He did not want to see new camps established. What was needed was to get those people home. Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, was going to Jordan on Tuesday to supervise the evacuation of refugees.

Mr Hurd hoped to go to Egypt before too long. Reflecting on his visit to the Gulf states, he said that the Arab leaders were staunch in the situation in which they found themselves. There were one or two, such as the exiled Kuwaiti government, which were impatient. But he found in all conversations the understanding that patience was needed as well as firmness.

Mr Hurd rejected the idea that there should be a compromise which fell short of replacing aggression. The international community, he said, would not allow President Saddam to go smiling home out of Kuwait with two islands and an oilfield in his pocket. The Saudi Arabians too had made clear that if a middle way were to be contemplated which fell short of a complete reversal of aggression, the Arabs would be settling for something less than that which the international community was insisting upon.

The oil trade on which Iraq relied for its foreign currency had been virtually stopped. President Saddam would not run out of oil but he should run out of money. All governments should ensure that Iraq could not trade and could not find ways around the UN sanctions to secure credit or cash.

It must be right to keep together to the maximum extent, the coalition at home and abroad. The certainty that the aggressor would lose was crucial to a peaceful solution. If that certainty was qualified by some doubt, by some feeling in his own mind that he might escape with his booty, the chances of a peaceful solution were reduced.

"What is at stake is the future of Kuwait and of the hostages, and the happiness and peace of thousands of people." Also at stake was something else: if the coalition that had been formed against aggression held together and reversed aggression, the prospects for a better world order remained good. If it did not hold they were back into anarchy, punctuated by explosions of force, and the clouds would extinguish that light and hope.

The motion to adjourn was carried by 437 votes to 35 — government majority, 402.

Letters, page 13

Media accused of hyping up pain

THE activities of the press and television in their dealings with the families of hostages were sharply criticised by Robert Hayward (Kingswood, C), organiser of a helpline for families of British people in Iraq and Kuwait.

He said that the media seemed to have forgotten the relatives and friends of hostages, and had wanted at all stages to concentrate on the distress and agony and to hype up the pain.

It was not just tabloid newspapers that were at fault. In many ways they had been better and it had been television that had wanted film of relatives' agony. ITN had rung one family 30 times until early one morning. They should be ashamed of themselves, he said.

"There is hardly one aspect of the national media of whom I could not make similar condemnatory statements. Helpline and relatives

of hostages are sick to death of the media because of the way they have preyed on events." Eric Hefley (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that he did not believe that war was the only answer. They must have a door ready to give President Saddam a chance to save some of his face so that they could solve the problem by negotiation.

The situation had arisen from imperialist oil interests. "I do not want us to be rushed into a war because of oil interests."

Winston Churchill (Davyhulme, C) said that the allies must not shrink from making a pre-emptive strike if British and allied casualties were to be kept to a minimum.

If need be, they should "take out" the Iraqi air force, its missiles and its weapons of mass destruction. Thereafter, the Iraqi army would be at the mercy of the allies' high-tech weapons.



Labour tempers support for policy with warning

By JOHN LEWIS, POLITICAL STAFF

LABOUR'S support for the action in the Gulf was tempered by a warning from Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, that it was not giving the government a blank cheque.

He told MPs in yesterday's debate: "We shall be voting for what has been done so far and we shall not be voting to give a blank cheque on whatever action should be taken in the future. No government in a democracy can expect such a cheque and no opposition can sign one."

Mr Kaufman said there were some who argued that the western reaction was self-interest motivated by oil prices and supplies, but President Saddam Hussein did not invade Kuwait for some idealistic reason or some grievance about an outlet to the Gulf. It was because of oil production and its price.

The reaction to his aggression was proper. Far less proper was the action of the petrol companies who had greedily sought to take advantage. Risks were not being taken to defend the right of BP and Esso to put up their prices.

The response had been global because the world faced global aggression. President Saddam had sought not only to obliterate a small neighbour, but also to destabilise the Arab world and the Islamic world, doing a dis-

service to the Palestinians whom he claimed to champion. Above all he had raised the spectre of chemical and nuclear war which would not stop short in the Middle East region, but could engulf the world.

All the United Nations resolutions called for Iraq to be removed from Kuwait without condition. Any negotiation must be after Iraq had withdrawn and the sovereignty, independence and integrity of Kuwait had been restored.

He would be telling Kuwait and Saudi Arabia representatives of Labour's support for the objectives, including stringent sanctions, a naval blockade and an air blockade if this was what the Security Council authorised. "If the international community proceeds in these measures and maintains its unity and its sense of common purpose and determination, the sanctions can succeed."

There was no doubt that President Saddam would have gone into Saudi Arabia and that was why it was essential to deter such an attack by the speedy deployment of outside resources requested by Saudi Arabia. Labour supported fully the measures taken under United Nations authority to ensure that Saudi Arabia was not raped as Kuwait had been. When he saw servicemen in

the Gulf next week he would tell them of Labour's support for the action taken so far. Both the ejection of Iraq and the protection of Saudi Arabia were essential. He welcomed the consistent record of the UK government in taking action only under the clear and unquestionable authority of the UN.

Further operations found necessary, like an air blockade, should be clearly and unequivocally authorised by the United Nations. When earlier in the crisis the government discussed with him a naval blockade, he had said that being able to argue the case under Article 51 was not as satisfactory as being able to demonstrate clear and unequivocal authority by going back to the security council for a resolution. This was what had been done.

If the UN was to take the action that the Prime Minister proposed, it must maintain its coherence and effectiveness and it could do so only if its approach was safeguarded. "If the international consensus is broken as a result of action which key permanent members of the security council cannot support or actively oppose, not only will there be no effective UN machinery to police a settlement, there will be no settlement to police. It is crucial there should be such a settlement."

Defence committee plans visit to troops

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Commons defence committee decided yesterday that later this year it will visit British troops stationed in the Gulf.

After an informal meeting at Westminster of the cross-party committee, Michael Mailes, the chairman, said: "We want to go and see the conditions in which they are living, if they have the equipment they need and if it is in good working order."

The timing of the visit will be depend on events during the next six weeks as the MPs said they were anxious not to interfere with the deployment of British forces in the region or to put a burden on defence officials. But it will not take place until after the Commons returns on October 15.

American congressional committee members have toured their forces stationed in Saudi Arabia and French defence committee members have questioned ministers on troop deployment.

The Commons foreign affairs committee, chaired by David Howell, took advantage of the emergency two-day debate to have a private briefing with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on developments in the Middle East.

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EUROPE

EC promises assistance for hardest hit Arab states

From MICHAEL BIVON IN ROME

FOREIGN ministers of the European Community yesterday promised around \$2 billion (£1.05 billion) in immediate aid to the governments of Jordan, Egypt and Turkey to help them cope both with the flood of refugees pouring into their countries and the effects of the United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Meeting in emergency session here, the ministers also agreed to strengthen sanctions by investigating ways of preventing goods from reaching Iraq overland or by air. They said full implementation of the embargo was essential for a peaceful solution.

According to Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, the meeting agreed on \$2 billion as representing Europe's share of the \$9.3 billion which the European Commission estimates the three countries need. Gianni de Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, did not give an exact figure but said short-term relief and longer-term help with balance of payments deficits could run into "billions".

Community finance ministers,

who are to meet here today, will be more specific in deciding who pays what.

Britain insisted yesterday that financial aid must take into account the military costs of those EC countries that have sent forces to the Gulf. Britain has also hesitated about helping Jordan because of that country's warring over enforcing sanctions. William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, said Jordan's enforcement was improving, however, and Britain would not be unrealistic by insisting on stopping all leakage across its border with Iraq.

The decision to support action, presumably by US forces in the area, against aircraft attempting to break the embargo, is a significant step by the Twelve, including neutral Ireland, towards a common military and security policy, but Signor de Michelis said the American operation. Instead, the Twelve would make their own contributions, collectively and individually, to the Gulf operations. He said the American call on the Western allies to share the burden was "justified and legitimate".

The ministers yesterday did not go into the military details because all of them, except Ireland, will discuss their national contributions with James Baker, the US Secretary of State, at the emergency Nato council meeting in Brussels on Monday.

The Germans, who are expected to pay the lion's share of the community contribution but have so far been hesitant about committing themselves, emphasised yesterday that Europe was also looking to the Gulf Arab states for substantial cash support.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister, said Saudi Arabia would earn an extra \$3 billion a month from increased oil revenues.

Britain yesterday agreed that the Community should go ahead with a financial aid package to Syria which it had previously vetoed because of Syria's involvement in terrorism. Mr Waldegrave said Britain was ready to reassess its relations with Syria in view of changed circumstances. "It would be unrealistic not to recognise that Syria has taken a stand with us and the majority of the international community," he said.

The ministers also agreed to a formal joint declaration with the Soviet Union on the Gulf, expected to be finalised when Signor de Michelis, leading the Italian EC presidency, visits Moscow next Saturday. Mr Waldegrave, standing in for Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, now on a visit to Tokyo, suggested there was little substance to such a statement, but Moscow wanted it and it would be a welcome sign of Soviet recognition of the EC's political dimension.

The ministers emphasised the importance of the recently relaunched Euro-Arab dialogue. The Italian presidency promised to convene an early meeting after informal contacts with the Arab states, giving priority to the Gulf conflict. The Italians also want to revitalise the Community's Mediterranean policy, but Mr Waldegrave said it would be a mistake if such a meeting were linked to the Arab-Israeli question. Lebanon and other "murky areas", as this would weaken action on the central question.

NEW YORK: Eleven countries have asked the United Nations to help them overcome the economic hardship caused by the embargo of Iraq and occupied Kuwait. Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general reported yesterday (James Bone writes).

Nine of the nations, Bulgaria, India, Jordan, Lebanon, the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Yugoslavia, have already applied for assistance under Article 50 of the UN Charter which allows them to consult the security council about their "special economic problems". The other two, Sudan and Yemen, have indicated their intention to invoke Article 50. Señor Pérez de Cuellar said in his first full report to the security council sub-committee monitoring UN sanctions against Iraq.

Americans optimistic of winning

Washington — A month into the Gulf confrontation Americans had toughened their stance towards Iraq while expressing growing optimism that their country had the upper hand against President Saddam Hussein's troops, according to the latest national opinion poll (Susan Ellicott writes).

The poll, conducted last Tuesday and Wednesday by *The Wall Street Journal/NBC News*, found that 84 per cent of Americans think the United States should take military action against Iraq if it attacks Saudi Arabia. This is a 10 per cent increase on two weeks earlier. If Iraq fails to withdraw from Kuwait, 56 per cent of Americans would support a US military response, compared with 43 per cent two weeks earlier.

A bipartisan team of pollsters attributed the changes to mounting confidence in the US military as its rapid build-up nears completion. The passage of a month without dramatic incident, despite the potential flashpoints of Iraq's rounding up of hostages and the halting by US naval forces of ships suspected of breaking a UN-backed trade embargo against Iraq, also contributed.

The American public now believes, by a margin of 56 to 36 per cent, that the United States will defeat Iraq without a shooting war. Last month Americans were split almost evenly on whether there would be a war. "Resolve and support for the US action is a little stronger than it was two weeks ago," the pollsters said. The results show continued strong support among Americans for President Bush's handling of events in the Gulf.

Red Cross fails in hostage bid

Geneva — Cornelio Summaruga, president of the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross, flew back to Geneva after a week of talks in Jordan, Iraq and Iran to report failure in his attempt to get the Red Cross involved in helping hostages in Iraq (A Correspondent writes).

He said he had believed he had a deal which would allow the Red Cross to visit foreigners held in hotels and elsewhere in Baghdad and Kuwait. He had been prepared to fly back to Baghdad today from Tehran, where he met government officials yesterday, to sign the accord. At the last minute, however, he received word the Iraqis had changed their mind. "I have no idea why this is," he told a press conference.

Three successive meetings with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, had also produced an unending refusal to agree that the Geneva conventions on the treatment of prisoners should apply in the current conflict.

Britain warns on sanctions busting

London — The Trade and Industry Department yesterday warned companies of severe penalties for breaching sanctions on trade with Iraq and Kuwait (Derek Harris writes). Six orders are now in operation covering almost all trade from gold and securities to manufactured goods.

The department has set up an enforcement unit to ensure there is tight surveillance, including the checking of company records. The unit, which is expected to expand rapidly, will work closely with customs and excise officials and the police.

A department statement said: "Breaching sanctions is a serious offence. The maximum penalty on conviction is up to seven years imprisonment or an unlimited fine or both."



Short rations: an Indian refugee at a camp near Amman with the lunch for which he spent four hours queuing yesterday — unleavened bread, a tomato and a piece of cheese. It could be February before he can return home

JORDAN

Refugees face hard winter in desert

By JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN AMMAN AND MICHAEL KNIFE

AN INTERNATIONAL effort to repatriate more than 150,000 mostly Third-World refugees stranded on Iraq's borders with Jordan and Turkey gathered pace yesterday. By last night the multinational airlift which began on Monday had evacuated 5,000 people on 18 flights, mostly to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The number of seats on flights arranged over the next four weeks totals more than 40,000.

But, even if the most optimistic predictions are correct, thousands of the refugees may be stuck in the squalid desert camps until next year. A report by the International Organisation for Migration, incorporated in a Jordanian government study now circulating in Amman, says the repatriation of all refugees in Jordan could take at least five months. In

response to the emergency appeal for £37 million to fund the evacuation, Japan yesterday donated about £6 million. Britain, having given £2 million on Thursday, said yesterday that Linda Chalker, the minister for overseas development, would visit Jordan early next week to see the problem for herself.

If the migration organisation receives enough contributions it could arrange the repatriation of about 6,000 people a week. But there is little confidence that this will be achieved. Lack of co-ordination in Jordan is visible at all levels. There is not even agreement on the number of refugees in the two large encampments on the Jordan-Iraq border and in the tent cities scattered around Amman, and more refugees continue to pour in: at least

15,000 a day according to official calculations. There are reports that up to 300,000 non-Arabs are still waiting on the Iraqi side of the border. The Jordanian government fears that, unless a massive airlift is arranged, the kingdom could soon have up to two million impoverished foreigners in its territory. With winter approaching, medical and housing costs are likely to soar dramatically. "Winter is very cold and very hostile in the desert," a government official said.

As international attention began to focus more directly on the refugees' plight, there were reports of a build-up of people on the Iraqi-Turkey border. With 10,000 refugees already in Turkey, a further 50,000 were said to be gathered on the Iraqi side.

MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON

Pressure on for summit deal

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHEN President Gorbachev leaves Moscow for Helsinki this afternoon, he will be leaving behind a city and a country in more disorder than most Russians can remember. Several Soviet commentators are already comparing the economic dislocation, civil unrest and ethnic conflict with the situation before the 1917 revolution.

Domestic troubles restrict Mr Gorbachev's room for manoeuvre at Helsinki, but they also increase the need for the talks to be seen as a success at home. Ideally, the Soviet leader and his foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, have hinted that they would like to see Helsinki lay the foundation for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

While modesty (and probably realism) prevent them from openly claiming the role of mediator, they have relished the diplomatic coming and goings in Moscow, which is one of few foreign capitals where Iraqi leaders have been given a public hearing. The American side, with some muted support from world-wide spokesmen in the Soviet foreign ministry, has appeared to rule out the first option and expressed reservations about the possibility of mediation. Moscow is probably expecting, there-

fore, to have to settle for a good deal less than US support for a Middle East peace conference to include Israel, and appointment as mediator in the Gulf.

Money, or the promise of it, would probably go a long way to satisfy the Soviet side. The haughty rejections of Western charity, heard so loudly before the Washington summit, have faded. The government newspaper *Izvestia* yesterday published its main Helsinki preview under the headline: "Assistance, but with a condition". That condition, in the paper's view, would be proof, in the form of the withdrawal of Soviet military specialists from Iraq, that Moscow had halted military support for Iraq. (It cut off military supplies within hours of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.) The commentator, writing from New York, appeared to see little wrong with the condition, even though "linkage" has long been anathema to Moscow.

One of the chief obstacles to more US economic help for the Soviet Union (aside from the wariness of US business to invest) is the fact that the law on emigration has not yet passed through the Soviet parliament. The Americans and the Russians are talking about economic understandings being reached at Hel-

sinki which would be quite separate from the "most favoured nation" status Moscow covets.

What can Mr Gorbachev realistically give in return? He can offer President Bush a further public assurance that the view of the world, and Iraq, in Moscow does not differ radically from that in most other capitals of the world. The value of such an assurance should not be underestimated, either for the US president or for the West as a whole.

It will demonstrate to the Iraqi leadership the degree of its isolation and show that East and West cannot be so easily divided as it may have thought. In return for US support in reviving the UN military staff council, and possibly even without that *quid pro quo*, Moscow might be prepared to offer at least moral support for military action against Iraq.

The use of Soviet troops, ships and aircraft seems unlikely, partly because Moscow has been so adamantly opposed to the use of force, partly because of domestic opposition to Soviet troops fighting abroad. Last week the official communist party paper, *Pravda*, expressed the view that a US-led armed attack on Iraq would mean the end of détente.

If Mr Gorbachev can publicly dissociate himself from that view, as foreign ministry spokesmen already have, that could be all that President Bush is looking for.

Soviet support for UN resolution 665, which allowed the use of "coercive force", indicated that Moscow would not, in the last analysis and if other methods failed, oppose the use of force. In recent days its position has seemed less clear-cut. A return to clarity and an image of US-Soviet solidarity may suit both sides well.

President Bush flew to Helsinki overnight in his new Air Force One, a customised Boeing 747 replete with 85 telephones, 19 televisions, seven bathrooms, anti-missile defences and presidential office, bedroom, changing room and medical suite. It was a stylish way to arrive, but Mr Bush may have been rather too preoccupied to notice. Summits, however dressed up, are ultimately about deals, and a deal

is what Mr Bush must reach with Mr Gorbachev to maintain the momentum of his impressive drive to reverse Iraq's aggression.

Mr Bush needs, above all, an unqualified display of superpower unity to dramatise Iraq's utter isolation and put paid to Baghdad's hopes of playing off Moscow against Washington. He also wants to break the logjam on talks to cut strategic missiles and conventional forces in Europe so that treaties can be signed before the year's end, and a settlement of the decade-long Afghan conflict.

Mr Gorbachev is averse to none of the above, but his wholehearted co-operation may well come at a price. He is likely to renew his plea for urgent economic assistance.

Publicly there would be no direct linkage of the two: Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, denied a *Los Angeles Times* report on Thursday which said Washington had quietly offered to try to secure a big international aid package for the Soviet Union in return for Soviet military participation in the Gulf and the removal of military advisers in Baghdad. However it was Mr Fitzwater himself who first linked economic help with Moscow's general support for Washington's handling of the Gulf crisis. "I think it's fair to say that the Soviet co-operation in the Gulf has impressed us to the point that we are even more interested in being supportive economically if we can be," he said on Wednesday. That co-operation "clearly moves us in the direction of being more helpful".

Differences between Moscow and Washington on conduct of the Gulf crisis are not big, but they exist and distract from the impression of total superpower unity that Washington so badly needs. Mr Bush wants the Russians to withdraw their military advisers from Iraq — an issue Moscow now appears to be moving on — to come down their calls for a UN military role, and shelve their idea for an international conference on the Middle East which would discuss Israel as well as Iraqi expansionism.

Leading article, page 13

SOVIET UNION

Moscow 'trying to pull out' advisers

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO AND ANDREW MCLEWEN IN HELSINKI

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, said yesterday that Moscow was trying to withdraw its military advisers from Iraq and was having secret talks with Baghdad to free the hostages being held by President Saddam Hussein.

At the end of a four-day visit to Tokyo, Mr Shevardnadze said: "We have some 8,000 people working there in Iraq, but the number of military advisers is about 150 and the number is being reduced."

"Mr Aziz (the Iraqi foreign minister) said after meeting Mr Gorbachev in Moscow that Iraq had no need for those military advisers, and that if the Soviet Union wished to withdraw them that would be no problem for Iraq. Our first priority was to get women and children out. Now we are ready to make our utmost efforts to pull them (the advisers) out."

It emerged, meanwhile, that Mr Aziz's reception in Moscow was even cooler than it appeared. Soviet sources disclosed that he would like to return after the Bush-Gorbachev meeting, and was told he would be welcome if he had something new to say.

Acknowledging that many countries are looking to Moscow to use its influence on Baghdad over the thousands still detained by Iraq, Mr Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union was "making various efforts to resolve this issue, including formal statements and secret contacts and talks."

He said the Soviet Union had no miracle solution to present to Washington when Presidents Bush and Gorbachev meet in Helsinki tomorrow, but he warned America against a unilateral military strike against Iraq. "The US would not be well advised to take punitive, unilateral military action. We need to engage the (UN) security council first," he said.

"As to the results of the Helsinki meeting, I'm not sure I can be very specific. What would be most important would be the search for ways to a peaceful conclusion to the conflict... Had this occurred during the days of the Cold War we would have been on the brink of nuclear war and our nuclear arsenal would have been on high alert."

The effect of the summit will be to give the economic blockade of Iraq the best possible chance of success by removing any impression of unwillingness on Moscow's part. Mr Gorbachev will want sanctions to be given time to work, even if it means leaving Iraqi forces in control of Kuwait for some months. Some reports have suggested impatience in Washington over any long delay, but Western sources said these were unfounded. The Bush administration and Mrs Thatcher are understood to have agreed that there should be no premature use of force unless in response to an Iraqi attack.

Moscow has hinted that it might support the creation of a United Nations force to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, but this is not seen as a short-term prospect. It would be considered only if economic sanctions failed.

Soviet diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the Gulf confrontation intensified yesterday, in advance of the Helsinki summit. The US ambassador, Jack Matlock, was received by the deputy foreign minister who has overseen day to day policy towards the Gulf, Aleksandr Belousov.

At the same time, the chairman of the group co-ordinating Gulf policy, deputy premier Igor Belousov, was reported to have met a special envoy from the President of Tunisia, minister of state Zin al-Abidin ben Ali. Tunisia has been mooted as a potential mediator in the Gulf.

The official Tass news agency yesterday announced the arrival in Moscow of a special envoy from the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi.

CAIRO: Many of Moscow's allies in the Arab world are afraid that the superpower summit in Helsinki tomorrow could result in the Arabs being turned even tighter against Iraq (writes Christopher Walker).

In an open letter published yesterday, the leaders of six radical Palestinian factions urged President Gorbachev to seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf confrontation.

Column Cruise O'Brien, page 12



Anti-American demonstrators carrying posters and shouting slogans denouncing President Bush in Amman yesterday

Pentagon finds patriotic gifts are not always practical

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

AS AMERICAN troops in Saudi Arabia fight the dual enemies of boredom and thirst, the folks back home are flooding the Pentagon with offers of gifts ranging from the welcome to the woefully impractical. The Defence Department recently received a telephone call from a New England woman offering to send between 2,000 and 3,000 fresh lobsters packed in ice to the US forces. Officials politely directed her idea through the appropriate channels but privately held out scant hope the crustaceans would survive the journey to the Gulf.

More successful was a proposed donation from the Coca-Cola company of 20,000 crates of Coke. Field commanders in Saudi Arabia jumped at the offer and quickly mobilised teams of GIs to bring

2,000 cases a day across the desert by truck under armed escort from a warehouse there to sweaty soldiers at base camps.

The Defence Logistics Agency, which fields calls from would-be donors at its office in the Washington suburbs, has received so many offers of help from patriotic Americans anxious to do their bit, however small, that it set up a telephone hotline to field calls. An air-conditioning expert telephoned to offer help in the Gulf. A woman rang wanting to bake cookies for the US forces. A plumber volunteered to fly to the Middle East to ply his trade.

Other offers include comics, novels, 100 head of cattle, umbrellas, cassette recorders, 500 copies a week of *Time* magazine, bottles of drinking water, sunscreen lotion and a supply of fancy ice

cream from a West Germany-based branch of the firm Haagen-Dazs.

Although the Pentagon was unable to send the ice cream to the Gulf, the offer was not wasted. US troops stopping off at West German bases en route to the Middle East are eating it.

Sadly, said Pat Miller, a spokeswoman for a privately-funded group that screens the proposals, the Pentagon has none the less had to turn down some offers because of transport or cost problems. It is hard to squeeze in a box of umbrellas, she said, when the military is struggling to keep up with official shipments to the forces in the Gulf that include 100,000 pairs of sun goggles, 400,000 desert camouflage suits and almost 16 million ready-to-eat meals.

Americans began bombarding the Pentagon with offers of gifts soon after the deployment of US troops last month. The

logistics agency is allowed to receive gifts under a 1954 law originally designed to permit the government to accept art works. At first, donors offered bottled water after seeing television film of the US forces sweltering in temperatures of 120°F in the Gulf. The Pentagon discreetly pointed out that the troops had plenty of water bought locally. Alternative offers ensued, including fruit sodas, popular in the United States as after-sport thirst-quenchers.

More recently, a Las Vegas casino and hotel company donated 10,000 decks of playing cards, concerned about reports that troops were fighting boredom as the standoff between Iraqi and American troops dragged in to its fifth week. To help soldiers while away the hours, a radio station in Baltimore offered to send 3,000 music tapes. Other callers have pledged

exercise equipment, video games and even bubble bath liquid.

Apparently, many of the callers do not realise that the troops are mainly living in tents and have little space for their gifts. The United States must also choose goods carefully to avoid offending the morals and religious views of the Saudi troops who work alongside American servicemen and women. Videos of films showing women in positions of authority or scantily clad are out, as are magazines that could be seen as pornographic.

"Maybe some portable generators would be a better idea," said Ms Miller.

The US Navy, meanwhile, is trying to keep morale high by encouraging Americans to join its "Adopt a Sailor" programme and write chatty letters to naval troops in the Gulf, heading them "Dear Brave Heart".

IRAQ

Saddam has 300,000 men confronting West's force

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Iraqis have at least 25 divisions in Kuwait and in an area of Iraq within relatively easy reach of the Kuwaiti border, according to the latest Western assessment, increasing the number to about 300,000 and the tanks to about 3,000.

It is believed there are between four and five armoured-mechanised divisions and five or six infantry divisions — a total of between 150,000 and 155,000 men — in Kuwait, seven Republican Guards divisions, armoured and infantry, just across the Iraqi border, and up to 10 regular army divisions spread out from the Shatt al-Arab waterway to the north of Basra. Iraq has also set up a forward military headquarters in Basra so that the military operation can be controlled closer to the action.

The number of tanks in Kuwait, mostly Soviet T 55s,

has risen to at least 1,500. Another 1,500 are deployed with the elite Republican Guards and other regular divisions in southern Iraq. The Republican Guards have the more advanced Soviet T 72s. There are also 700 artillery pieces in Kuwait.

Even when all the American tanks assigned to Operation Desert Shield have arrived in Saudi Arabia, which is not expected to be until mid-October, there will probably be fewer than 1,000.

It is this imbalance which might persuade the British government to send an armoured brigade to Saudi Arabia.

There are also Iraqi Silk-worm anti-ship missiles, about 20 Soviet Frog battle-field missile launchers and a range of surface-to-air missiles, including Soviet Sam 2s, Sam 3s and the shoulder-held Sam 7s.

The latest assessment of Iraq's air force is that it has about 800 combat fighters, not 513, as previously believed. Squadrons of Soviet Su 27 Frogfoots have been spotted on the main air bases closest to the Iraq-Kuwait border. This attack aircraft is the Soviet counterpart of the American A 10 "tank-busting" Thunderbolt, at least 60 of which have been sent to Saudi Arabia.

Three fully loaded Iraqi oil tankers — Hittin and Al Qudsiyah, both 150,000 tons, and the 35,000-ton Rumaila — are moored at Iraq's terminal at Umm Qasr. Aircraft carrying military equipment are known to be still flying from Libya to Iraq. Recent flights went through Jordanian and Syrian air space.

RAF Hercules transport aircraft have flown 8,000 hours in one month, ferrying men and equipment to Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, which is more than during the four weeks of military build-up after Argentina invaded the Falklands in 1982.

● **BONN:** The state prosecutor in Munich has opened an investigation into Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm after spare parts for helicopters in 60 crates addressed to "Iraqi Army Aviation" and "Central Bank of Iraq ... Military Account" were found in one of the company's warehouses at Orobaurun-Höhenkirchen in Bavaria (Ian Murray writes).

The company has denied that it has sent anything to Iraq since the UN-imposed sanctions, but it has confirmed that five of its technicians are there. The investigation is not into sanctions-breaking, but into allegations that the parts were being sent in breach of West Germany's export laws prohibiting unlicensed export of military equipment.

TURKEY

Ankara to send two warships

From RASHID GURDILEK IN ANKARA

TURKEY is preparing to send two warships to the Gulf to help enforce UN economic sanctions against Iraq, sources said yesterday. They said the West German-designed Meko-class frigates, Fatih and Turgut Reis, were on stand-by at the western naval port of Gölçük.

The 2,780-tonne vessels are armed with Harpoon surface-to-surface and Sea Sparrow surface-to-air missiles.

The sources said Turkey had earmarked between 4,500 and 5,000 troops which could join the multi-national force in Saudi Arabia. Turkey, which has about 95,000 troops backed by tanks and surface-to-air missiles on its southern border with Iraq, says it has no immediate plans to send ground forces.

Parliament on Wednesday empowered the government, for only the third time in the modern republic's 67-year history, to send forces abroad. Despite the opposition's professed pacifism and the public concern about a "chemical war", President Ozal is determined to earn the country — and himself — an active role in the reshaping of the Middle East after the crisis.

Mr Ozal told a national newspaper on Wednesday that he is convinced the map of the Middle East will alter dramatically after the Gulf crisis. To this end, he has chosen to pursue solidarity with the US.

HIGH-TECH WEAPONS

Iraqi early-warning system outclassed

By MICHAEL EVANS

COMPARED to the fleet of about a dozen American and Saudi early warning Awacs aircraft operating a 24-hour patrol in the Gulf, Iraq's two equivalent systems, the Baghdad 1 and Adnan 1, are less capable. But it is believed that additional equipment may have been installed recently on the Baghdad 1 so that it can operate as an airborne command and control system for Iraqi fighters.

The Iraqi version of the Awacs is based on the Soviet Ilyushin 76 transport aircraft, fitted with French Tigre surveillance radar. This is a ground-based system mounted on trailers but the Iraqis, probably with Soviet help, have adapted the equipment for airborne early-warning use.

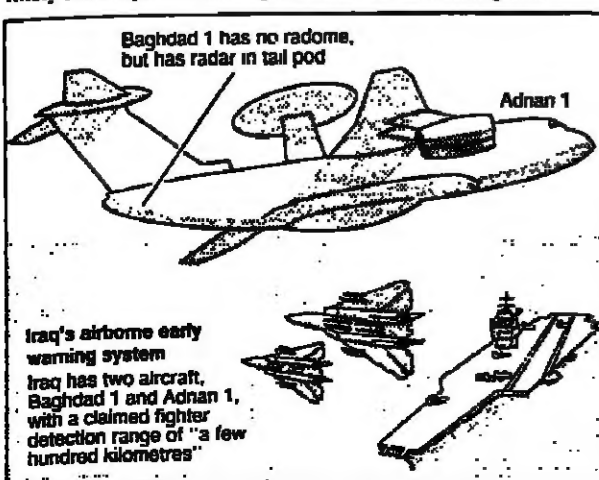
Iraq claims its early warning aircraft have a detection range of a few hundred kilometres but their real effectiveness is not known. Having only two early-warning aircraft, it is likely the Iraqis will be wary of

flying them too close to hostile fighters.

But the Iraqis make the Tigre radar under licence and it is possible that, with 36 Ilyushin 76 aircraft, they may try to produce extra early-warning systems to provide more cover for their fighters.

The Iraqi communication system on board is unlikely to be particularly advanced, although it could have a jam-proof data link system, providing coded transmissions from air to ground.

By contrast, the American Awacs in Saudi Arabia are fitted with a coded system called JTIDS (joint tactical information distribution system) which is supposed to be jam-resistant, and also with "Have Quick" radio, which enables operators to talk to the ground and to fighters in the air on a scrambled transmission that hops from one frequency to another. Some of the RAF Tornado F3s sent to Saudi Arabia have also been fitted with Have Quick.



KUWAIT

Emir faces up to idea of permanent foreign force

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN TAIF

THE Sheraton Hotel in this Saudi mountain resort is a far cry from the opulence of the Dasmun royal palace in Kuwait. But, for Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah and his exiled ministers and aides, the modest building has been transformed into a temporary seat of government that is clinging to the last threads of power.

When James Baker, the US Secretary of State, arrived yesterday, the nervous and soft-spoken Kuwaiti monarch, who has avoided public appearances since he was deposed a month ago, sat uncomfortably in a cramped reception room. "We will sacrifice anything necessary to restore our country," he said.

Mr Baker, on a four-nation tour of the Middle East and the Soviet Union in advance of tomorrow's superpower summit in Helsinki, left the Gulf with assurances from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait that they would help to meet the multi-billion-dollar cost of the military build-up and would compensate countries suffering from the economic boycott of Iraq.

The Kuwaiti leadership is beginning to come to terms with the long-term implications of the conflict in the Gulf. Before his arrival Mr Baker had suggested to Congress a plan to establish a

regional security system in the Gulf aimed at protecting vulnerable oil-rich states from attack.

Since independence from Britain in 1961, Kuwait has been invaded twice by Iraq and threatened repeatedly by Iran. The prospect of future aggression against countries with vital Western oil interests has forced Arab Gulf states and the West to consider permanent deployment of foreign forces in the region.

Although Kuwaiti ministers and officials refuse to be drawn publicly on the matter, they accept that the price for the return of their country could be the establishment of a permanent US force in the emirate as a deterrent against future aggression. "If the Americans had been here in the first place Iraq could never have dared attack," a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family said, echoing the views of many in the exiled government. "When we get our country back, I and many others would be in favour of a permanent US force, even if it means being branded a US stooge or a Zionist by other Arab countries," he said.

The invasion of Kuwait, it is becoming clear, has for the time being buried any idea of pan-Arab unity and has imposed a more pragmatic ap-

proach on the Gulf states. The Gulf Co-operation Council, a military alliance of the six Gulf states, was powerless to protect Kuwait. US, Saudi and Kuwaiti strategists now believe that the region can only be secure with a permanent foreign force in the region.

It seems likely that Egypt and Syria, which both have large standing armies and have promised as many as 50,000 troops to the current joint Arab force in Saudi Arabia, could provide much of the manpower.

But it is also clear that the presence of US forces would be needed as a superpower guarantee of stability. The plan would be to establish a US base in Kuwait, as well as pre-positioning heavy military equipment at supply dumps around the region.

European nations could continue to contribute naval forces and possibly station garrisons on the smaller Gulf states such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

"Of course we learn from our past when we make decisions for the future," said the Kuwaiti foreign minister Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah. "One has to consider arrangements not only for making my country stable but making the whole area stable."



The way ahead: Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah, Kuwait's prime minister, whose government is coming to terms with the need for a permanent foreign force in the Gulf

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هكذا من الأصل

Sporting imagery injects team spirit into Cambodia talks

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN JAKARTA

THE search for peace in Cambodia has taken some strange twists but yesterday it turned in an even more bizarre direction: it somehow got mixed up with soccer.

Yet, at the same time, there were encouraging signs that a breakthrough towards a settlement which could bring peace to Cambodia after almost 12 years of war might be in the offing. Diplomats here warned, however, that any hint of optimism on Cambodia should always be tempered with extreme caution.

Hun Sen, the prime minister of the Vietnam-backed regime in Phnom Penh, said Prince Norodom Sihanouk should take part directly in crucial but stalled talks on a United Nations formula for

peace, which might begin in Jakarta this weekend.

Speaking on departure from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam for the Indonesian capital, and continuing a frustrating dialogue that has been going on for days, Mr Hun Sen said he would not take part directly in a meeting bringing together Cambodia's four warring factions, if Prince Sihanouk did not participate.

The prince, aged 68, leader of the guerrilla coalition, which includes two non-communist components and the Khmer Rouge and which is opposed to the regime in Phnom Penh, had said he was coming to Jakarta at the invitation of President Suharto of Indonesia.

He would be available for "consultations" with the co-chairmen of the conference, representing Indonesia and France, but he

would not attend the working sessions.

Mr Hun Sen said: "Without the participation of Sihanouk, who is considered father of the nation, and who is a key to the political solution, and who if compared to famous footballers would be a Pele, Platini or a Maradona, then I too cannot take part."

His reference to Prince Sihanouk as "father of the nation" was tongue in cheek. But Mr Hun Sen's football comparison was apt as he and Prince Sihanouk are avid soccer fans, though the prince only watches games on television — his favourite player is Maradona, according to aides who send him video tapes — while the prime minister, at 39, is a player.

During a visit to a small town in Cambodia last year, I saw Mr Hun Sen playing outside right in a local match — a position that in political

terms, some of his aides admitted at the time, did not quite correspond with the (diluted) Marxist orientation of the Phnom Penh government.

On arrival in Jakarta last night Mr Hun Sen said he had not yet decided whether to attend the meeting or not. "If Prince Sihanouk does, I will," he said.

The mercurial former monarch, who likes to assume the mantle of an elder statesman who is above the hurly burly of negotiation, is due to arrive from Peking tonight, and diplomats thought the question of the attendance of the two principal leaders in the Cambodian equation could be sorted out with the help of Ali Alatas, the Indonesian foreign minister, who has worked tirelessly towards an end to the war.

Diplomats say that the reasons for guarded optimism stem from the fact that the three main powers involved in the search for peace — the United States, the Soviet Union and China — are increasing pressure on their Cambodian protégés to reach a settlement.

While the Americans are preparing for talks for the first time with the Phnom Penh government, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, said in Tokyo yesterday that he was ready to meet Prince Sihanouk, who the Soviet authorities have shunned since his overthrow in Cambodia in 1970.

"This is good news", Prince Norodom Ranariddh, military leader of his father's guerrilla faction, said.

Mr Shevardnadze has even referred to Prince Sihanouk as "leader of the Cambodian people". It would be hard to imagine this remark coming from

the leaders of Vietnam, the principal backers of the regime they installed in Phnom Penh after driving out the Khmer Rouge in December 1978.

It was the Khmer Rouge whose brutal rule resulted in the deaths of up to a million people. But even this faction may be willing to compromise on the composition of a supreme national council that will represent Cambodian sovereignty but give substantial powers to the UN as preparations are made for free elections, under the plan envisaged by the security council's five permanent members.

Sources close to the Khmer Rouge said the faction would accept the formula of six seats for the Phnom Penh government and six for the guerrilla coalition — leaving the Khmer Rouge with only two. The Chinese, the main

Khmer Rouge backers, might have pressed the Khmer Rouge on this, diplomats said.

Despite the hope that a breakthrough might be possible, hard bargaining on the composition of the supreme national council and other issues still lies ahead. The Phnom Penh regime is naturally reluctant to see itself dismantled. But Mr Hun Sen said he had come "with good intentions and a spirit of compromise".

On the security council plan he said: "We have already accepted the document as a framework of comprehensive solution. This means it's a basis of negotiations. It's already the framework of a solution."

Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, said late last night when asked about the prospect for the talks: "There are still problems but I think they can be overcome."

Official press accuses Bhutto of fraud in business deals

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN'S caretaker government, stung by military criticism of its attempts to discredit Benazir Bhutto, yesterday accused the former prime minister and her husband of massive fraud.

The government levelled the toughest and most specific allegations so far in its month-long campaign of innuendo against Miss Bhutto, conducted largely on state-controlled television and in leaks to anti-Bhutto newspapers. To the government's immense frustration and humiliation, however, the effort has plainly failed to damage Miss Bhutto's standing among grassroots supporters.

The government is therefore trying the new tactic of linking Miss Bhutto directly with business deals involving Asif Ali Zardari, her husband. The couple were called the "Bhutto-Zardari combine", the first time the phrase has been used, in a front-page article

in *The Pakistan Times*, a government mouthpiece, yesterday.

For all the serious allegations and torrents of criticism mounted in the past month, together with a promise yesterday of "hair-raising details" to come, no charges have been brought against Miss Bhutto. Indeed, all indications are that none will be for the foreseeable future, despite constant hints that she could be charged with corruption or even treason. Corruption and nepotism were cited as the reasons for her dismissal.

Much is being made of a secretly recorded tape in the government's possession in which Miss Bhutto is supposedly in conversation in her Islamabad office with Rajiv Gandhi, when he was India's prime minister. Senior members of the acting government claim she told him that the chief minister of Pakistani Punjab was involved in sabotage in India. She also allegedly told him that the same chief minister had established a Kashmiri separatist guerrilla training camp in Rawalpindi.

The Pakistan Times said that Miss Bhutto and Mr Zardari gave instructions for billions of rupees of unsecured government loans to be given to 50 large projects. The loans were "sanctioned" in the name of "frontmen" but the money in fact went to the "Bhutto-Zardari combine", according to the newspaper. The headline declared: "Asif Zardari main accused in sanction of loans".

The Federal Investigating Agency is examining details of the 50 projects, one of the biggest of which supposedly involved the construction of sugar mills. Another was for the establishment of a chain of duty-free shops. Various "frontmen" for Miss Bhutto and her husband were named by *The Pakistan Times*, which said that one of them had fled. "These frontmen did not enjoy any social status," it observed. "In fact some have a criminal record. They were used by the Bhutto-Zardari combine to their own advantage."

After these accusations, the newspaper went on to report gossip about Mr Zardari's financial arrangements to pay for his marriage to Miss Bhutto. He is said to have taken a loan of five million rupees (£125,000) from a businessman who in return demanded a 40 per cent stake in a building project in which Mr Zardari was involved. When Miss Bhutto became prime minister the deal was apparently cancelled.

The paper said the Federal Investigating Agency had cited Mr Zardari as the principal accused in cases relating to the sanction of loans based on political considerations. The statement seems to leave little doubt that he faces arrest. The newspaper said that the former president of the government-owned Habib Bank, arrested on Wednesday, was under "intense interrogation".

As rumours continue to circulate about efforts to persuade or force Miss Bhutto not to contest the October 24 election, a government spokesman in Islamabad denied that any deal had been offered under which the former prime minister would quit politics in return for immunity from prosecution.



Filipinos cheerfully riding out floodwaters with polystyrene rafts in Bulacan province yesterday. Thousands fled from Manila as heavy rains caused by Typhoon Dot flooded the city and battered Taiwan. One Taiwanese was killed and another swept out to sea

South African liberals torn between ANC and de Klerk

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE dismantling of apartheid has been at once a gratifying and bewildering experience for South Africa's Democratic party. The flagship of white liberals who campaigned against racial discrimination for decades, the party is suddenly adrift in unfamiliar currents and in danger of foundering.

Thousands of its supporters have defected to the reformist National party of President de Klerk — who will be having talks in Washington with President Bush later this month — leaving the remainder wondering what to do next. The sense of uncertainty was apparent when delegates gathered for the party's national congress in Johannesburg yesterday, to elect a new leader and chart their future course. Having abandoned an unpopular tripartite leadership, the party appeared to be evenly divided between Zach de Beer, one of the original co-leaders, and Tian van der Merwe, the national chairman.

Policy differences between them are slight, being more of nuance than substance. Dr de Beer believes the party should not contemplate an alliance with the African National Congress until its commitment to democracy is proved, while Mr van der Merwe lays more emphasis on actively pursuing such a pact.

The issue is central to the debate on strategy and, pending the outcome, the consensus appeared to be that the Democrats still had a vital role to play promoting liberal values in a post-apartheid society. How to do so became a matter of vigorous debate.

Younger members and disaffected Afrikaners favoured the ANC option, middle-class supporters tended towards the Nationalists, and a third school, of senior party members, proposed holding the middle ground.

Lester Fuchs, from a Johannesburg inner-city constituency, said the Democrats should regard the Nationalists and the ANC as political opponents. "We should not try to sweep our differences under the carpet," he said. "These people do not share our vision of democracy."

In an implicit reference to the ANC as people who tortured their own supporters in concentration camps, he said: "The ANC should not get preferential treatment. You won't get the respect of the ANC by patronising them and grovelling at their feet."

David Delling, MP, took precisely the opposite view, proposing that the party form a working group with the ANC with a view to a limited pact. "Past differences are acknowledged, but they must be overcome and put aside. If we declare the ANC to be our enemies... then we are writing ourselves out of the political future."

Mr Delling rejected an alliance with the Nationalists, which he said would cut off the party from the mainstream of black politics, and contemptuously dismissed the "middle ground" option. "To attempt to play the role of an independent watchdog over lib-

eral values would relegate our position in a short time to that of a disgruntled spectator, without support, growing irately and potentially at the new black government from the sidelines." He had difficulty in persuading delegates that the ANC shared their commitment to a free press, but earned applause for the idea of a joint working group.

Dr de Beer set the tone of the congress in an opening address, in which he said the past year had been turbulent, fascinating and terrifying. "To have been a political leader has been like walking through an earthquake. The ground has constantly heaved and shifted beneath our feet."

Government officials said meanwhile that the dates for Mr de Klerk's visit to Washington have not been finalised, but that it was likely to be a three-day visit from September 23. Mr de Klerk will have a working lunch with President Bush, but it is uncertain whether he will be received by congressional leaders on Capitol Hill.

Plans for the visit in June were dropped because of controversy over the fact it would have preceded an American tour by Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress.

● Soweto told: Five people died in Soweto on Thursday night, three of them at a police station where they had fled for safety after being assaulted. In all, the day's death toll from black violence was 15.

A Soweto police spokesman said one victim died in an apparently random attack, shot by occupants of a minibus cruising through the Naledi area; three were assaulted in their homes or in the streets, apparently by the same gang, and died at the Jabulani police station, and the fifth victim was a man set on fire near a workers' hostel in the Merafe district. (Reuters)



De Beer: not sure of ANC commitment to democracy

'Two plus four' talks wound up

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN EAST BERLIN

THE final round of "two plus four" talks on the external aspects of German unification ended in East Berlin yesterday after a two-day delay caused by Soviet unease on the status of its troops after the ending of the timing of their pull-out from East Germany.

Officials said that a time limit on the ending of allied rights over Berlin and a deadline for the withdrawal of the 360,000 Soviet troops had yet to be decided.

Bonn is known to have disagreed with the amount of financial compensation requested by Moscow to build housing for its returning forces. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, yesterday telephoned President Gorbachev for further discussions and also invited him and President Bush to take part in unification celebrations in Berlin on October 3.

The delegations of the two Germanies and the four allied powers were meeting to prepare the final unification treaty to be signed by the six foreign ministers in Moscow next week. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister, said yesterday he was confident that the signing would proceed on time.

East Germany's interior minister, Peter Diestel, said the screening of politicians for links with the Stasi, the former state security service, would have to continue after unification. With 144 East German MPs due to move into the Bundestag in Bonn, Herr Diestel said some may have slipped through the screening process. His comments came after the committee responsible for the dissolution of the Stasi admitted that estimates of the number of part-time informants at 100,000 had been far too low. "We now believe that some 500,000 people were active," its chairman Günther Eichhorn said yesterday.

Burmese regime arrests opposition leaders

FROM NEIL KELLY
IN BANGKOK

BURMESE authorities yesterday arrested the two men who have been leading opposition to military rule since the official leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was put under house arrest 14 months ago. Former colonel Kyi Maung and U Chit Khine led the National League for Democracy through elections last May when the party scored an overwhelming victory.

Rangoon radio said the two men had been charged with passing on state information to "unconcerned persons". Four other party officials were arrested in Mandalay and charged with forging news reports, a reference to an incident last month in which two monks and two students were reported to have been killed by soldiers during a democracy march in Mandalay. The authorities denied the report but Burmese lawyers and foreign diplomats said that evidence from witnesses was overwhelming.

Rangoon-based diplomats said the arrests made further mockery of the elections and that they were a pre-emptive move to silence increasing demands for a hand-over of power to the elected politicians. Recent statements by officials have revealed their fears that democratic forces may be contemplating another uprising against military rule, similar to demonstrations which the army crushed with great loss of life in 1988.

Kyi Maung and U Chit Khine have been trying to persuade radical sections of the league to be patient about a transfer of power, but demands within the party for action to force the military's hand are growing. Military leaders have even refused to talk seriously to the league. General Saw Maung, leader of the regime, said he had refused to meet the league because it was not united. He also said a constitution must be drafted before parliament met. The league has had a draft constitution ready for months but is not permitted to publish it.

The arrests will further weaken the league's leadership as about 500 key party officials are now in detention. Kyi Maung, aged 72, was a member of General Ne Win's junta after the army seized power in 1962 but he quickly fell out with the general, who imprisoned him three times. He joined the democracy movement in 1988 and established close ties with Daw Suu Kyi.

The military government recently offered to release Daw Suu Kyi from house arrest if she went into exile. Officials of the league said on Thursday that there was no question of her accepting the government's terms. Diplomats said the offer was in line with other statements by the military leaders, who were sensitive to international protests about their treatment of her.

Rangoon residents said by telephone last night that the latest moves against the opposition were making a tense situation even more threatening. They said it would get worse as several special dates drew near.

The Burmese regard tomorrow as an auspicious day for heroic deeds as it contains many lucky numbers. The league fixed September 15 for the first meeting of the elected parliament but the army says it will use force to stop MPs from assembling. September 18, the second anniversary of the army coup, may also bring people on to the streets and into conflict with the army. Army units which were particularly brutal in the 1988 demonstrations have been brought back to Rangoon.

Disidents who have been hiding on the Thai-Burmese border say they will send their troops to cities and towns to protect people against army attacks. They have prepared refugee areas on the border for people forced to flee.

Buddhist monks, who have always been in the forefront of the democracy campaign, are also preparing for trouble. The hierarchy of Buddhist Buddhism, the Sangha, has been holding special meetings in Rangoon this week and in Mandalay monks said they would conduct no more religious ceremonies attended by military personnel. A Western diplomat said this decision amounted to "excommunication of the army".

UK 'blocking nuclear arms control deal'

Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and the Soviet Union are holding up an important advance in nuclear arms control, according to informed critics in Geneva (Henry Stanhope writes).

They are blocking a proposal, before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference, that would prevent any treaty signatory from supplying nuclear materials or technology to another power unless its customer agreed to open its nuclear industry to regular inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Li loses a job

Peking — Chinese national radio has said that Li Peng, the premier, has been dismissed as head of a key economic think tank, but Chinese economists said the move did not signify a fall from grace for the hardline leader. The radio said Chen Jinhua, aged 61, president of the China Petrochemical Corporation, had replaced Li as head of the state commission for restructuring the economy. (Reuters)

Doe ultimatum

Abidjan — A number of West African leaders have told President Doe of Liberia to resign or face removal by force. Liberians close to negotiations have said. The ultimatum was issued this week by Lieutenant-General Arnold Quainoo, a Ghanaian who heads the five-nation West African military force sent to Liberia to try to end the civil war. President Doe has been given up to ten days to respond. (NYT)

Japanese knight

Tokyo — Takashi Ishihara, the chairman of the Nissan car company, has become an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire for his services to Britain's economy and to Anglo-Japanese understanding. Mr Ishihara, aged 78, who led Japanese carmakers into Britain, gave nearly £5 million to fund a chair for contemporary Japanese studies at Oxford.

Korean optimism

Seoul — Yon Hyong Muk, the prime minister of North Korea, left South Korea for home, leaving behind renewed hopes of better relations between the two Koreas after talks in which he met President Roh Tae Woo. Although no significant agreement was achieved the historic meetings were judged a success.

Canada poll shock

Ottawa — Voters in Ontario, Canada's largest province, rejected the Liberal government and elected the New Democratic party for the first time, giving the New Democrats 74 of the provincial legislature's 130 seats. The Conservatives won 20 and the Liberals 36, a loss, for them, of 59 seats.

Trabi machismo brings death to East German roads

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN EAST BERLIN

UNSUSPECTING West German motorists driving their Mercedes on the bumpy roads of the East are facing a new and dangerous problem as their country cousins adapt to fast-track capitalism: Trabi Machismo is the latest threat to social harmony in the soon to be unified Germany.

Doubtless inspired by the recent acceleration of unity, East Germans are apparently driving more aggressively than in the more measured days of socialism.

As production of the two-stroke Trabant ceases in East Germany, death on the roads has risen by 74 per cent in the first nine months of this year and there has been a 50 per cent rise in accidents across the country, it was revealed yesterday.

The authorities in Wiesbaden in West Germany have also recorded a 30 per cent rise in motorway accidents which they diplomatically say is "linked to some degree" to the arrival of East German drivers on West German roads.

Peter Riedel, the chief superintendent of East Berlin's transport police, has roundly scolded his compatriots for allowing "good-natured Trabi pride" to degenerate into a war on the roads with Western drivers.

Herr Riedel cited cases of East Germans trying to burn off Mercedes at traffic lights — and driving in nose-to-tail convoys at 90mph on the autobahns. "All this in a car whose brakes are not its salient feature," he said. "The body work of a Trabant is so

fragile that it flies apart on the slightest impact."

In East Berlin the authorities, worried by the growing recklessness of drivers, are fighting attempts by the West Berlin senate to introduce higher speed limits and liberal alcohol restrictions in the eastern part of the city after unification on October 3.

Even those who have forsaken the trusted Trabi for a Western car are proving a liability. Herr Riedel has complained that new owners of Western models were driving their cars too fast to control them, and often crashed their prize acquisitions within hours of buying them.

"They are used to driving tiny cars with inadequate motor power, so when they get behind the wheel of a good one, they still stamp the accelerator down," he

said. Other disastrous East German habits include the "socialist right turn", turning right on a red light, allowed in the East but banned in the West, and drivers over-estimating their reaction speed and overtaking power.

"One way or the other, many accidents are simply the result of GDR citizens showing off," Herr Riedel said. "These drivers are tomorrow's multiple-organ donors."

Meanwhile, the last Trabant has now clanked off the production line in Zwickau to scant regret as East German motorists desert their "little stinkers" in droves for the less subtle lure of the Westauto.

Since currency union with West Germany in July, East Germans have swamped second-hand dealers and it is now virtually impos-

sible to buy a used car in West Berlin. About 1,500 would-be buyers are being bussed to The Netherlands today by an enterprising salesman who has hired a football stadium in the border town of Enschede to sell Dutch cars to East Germans.

But a brave band of Trabant owners has refused to bow to the mighty Mercedes and formed a "Trabi preservation league" whose main aim is to campaign against the car being outlawed over the next three years as environmentally damaging. They are responsible for the spate of defiant stickers appearing in rear windows which read: "People who drive Mercs are just too scared to drive Trabis"; and, more sentimentally: "We'll stay together until the TUF (MoT) us do part."

Crime and the Catholics

Clifford Longley

The Roman Catholic Church is finding it hard to recruit prison chaplains. Priests have not been volunteering in sufficient numbers, and there has recently been a special appeal for more. The shortfall is especially embarrassing for the Catholic community since Catholics make up far more than their share of guests of Her Majesty's prisons. Of the prison population, more than 20 per cent are Catholics — roughly double the proportion of the population at large.

Why criminality correlates so strikingly with the Catholic religion is a vexed question. An airing in *The Times* some years ago was followed by a conference of Catholic penologists, sociologists, theologians and others in search of explanations. The conference was organised by the late Hugh Kay, editor of the Jesuit magazine *The Month*, who was himself engaged in work with prisoners and ex-prisoners.

Various plausible hypotheses emerged, but none could easily be tested. At least some of the theories put forward by practising Catholics were damaging to their church's good name, for they suggested that Catholicism — at least as it was taught to the generation in question — might have a tendency to cultivate a certain moral blindness.

The two most obvious explanations of the prison numbers do not hold water. The first is that the Catholic emphasis on private confession of sin followed by absolution tends to minimise guilt about wrongdoing; that if it is possible to sin one minute and be forgiven the next, conscience can quickly make light of any burden of guilt. This is a common enough caricature among non-Catholics, but the evidence does not support it. Regular private confession has declined so steeply in recent years that among working-class Catholic youth — the group most likely to end up in prison — it is virtually non-existent.

The second fallacious theory is that Catholics make up more than their share of the section of the population from which criminals generally come because most are descended from poor Irish immigrants and are themselves generally poor. But Catholics are not excessively concentrated among the working class. On the contrary, theirs is the only church community, which almost exactly mirrors the class composition of society at large, while the other churches tend to be over-represented among the middle classes.

Other indices of criminal or near-criminal deviance — prostitution and drug-taking, for instance — also tend to show an excessive number of Catholics, at least so Catholic social workers report on an anecdotal basis. Many forms of delinquency can be connected, statistically if not causally, with family breakdown, and Catholics — despite the emphasis on the sanctity of marriage — have by no means been immune from the

tidal wave of divorce in Britain. But this is certainly not an especially Catholic problem.

A third theory, which can be bracketed with these two, is helpful as an indication of attitudes, though it is not an explanation. This is the theory that the Catholic church stresses that everyone is a sinner, so that middle-class respectability is less expected as an implied condition of membership than it is in other churches. The idea is that the Catholic church consequently has less tendency to restrain criminal tendencies.

But statistics are a minefield of surprises. Catholics constitute nearly a quarter of the prison population, but this does not necessarily mean they are more inclined to crime. Judicial observers have suggested that Catholics make poor criminals and are therefore more likely to be caught or to own up.

Again, one feature of drug addiction is that it is often self-destructive, for psychological reasons, and many drug addicts die from overdoses, intentional or otherwise. If two of an initial sample of 20 drug addicts are Catholic (reflecting their proportion in the general population), and if ten of the other 18 commit suicide sooner or later but the two Catholics do not (for religious reasons), then the Catholic proportion of those remaining rises from 10 to 20 per cent.

Yet it is unlikely that every instance of Catholic over-representation among deviant groups can be explained in terms of such statistical quirks. What distinguishes Catholics who commit crime appears to be a general social inadequacy, a failure to cope, rather than an overt preference for evil over good. People in this group are not good at anything, crime included. Crime is sometimes the only solution to a problem which they would otherwise consider insoluble. On the whole, Catholic crimes tend to be victimless, self-destructive and petty. With a more enlightened penal policy, many of these people would not be in prison at all.

These are kindly explanations of a most disturbing and persistent phenomenon. Hugh Kay, a great and saintly man and a devout Catholic, did not accept them: nor could his concern be bought off with the reassurance that the church knows how to make saints as well as sinners. For him, there was a hidden worm in the heart of the Catholic apple, something disconcertingly wrong about the way it goes about the moral formation of the faithful and how it treats sin. Neither he nor any other expert could precisely define what exactly is wrong, but it may not be unconnected with the sense that for this Catholic underclass, the rules are made by others and imposed from outside and above.

There is still in British Catholicism a sense of being excluded and disenfranchised. Other people's rules are never quite as binding as one's own.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

For anyone seeking a late summer break, now is an excellent time to visit Peru. Bring a light cardigan and a hundredweight of noodles. Western embassies warn against travel outside a handful of towns, so you will find accommodation plentiful and hoteliers delighted to see you.

You can pay for your hotel in noodles. President Fujimori is letting prices rip, hoping to cut through the tangled web of his predecessor, Alan Garcia, who tried to fix prices and wages. He also kept llamas in the presidential palace gardens. On one occasion, at the opening of a luxury hotel in a provincial town, he threw the champagne reception open to the entire local population. Officials watched, helpless, as peasants rushed in, shovelled canopies into the folds of their skirts, and rushed out carrying bottles.

But Garcia never dared raise the price of noodles, the staple diet of poorer Peruvians. One of Fujimori's first acts, however, was to deregulate noodle prices, which promptly rose by 700 per cent. Now noodles are as gold dust. From this vantage point (I am now in Bolivia) it is unclear whether "Fujishock" is the end, or the beginning, for Peru. Millions of Indian peasants are already near the breadline, or noodleline. President Fujimori needs help.

Fujimori is the first Japanese emigrant to become president of his adoptive country, and during the election campaign he hinted that he could get aid from the country of his ancestors. For one photo-opportunity he was convinced to entertain the Japanese ambassador to a full Japanese tea ceremony. Asked by journalists whether he felt more Peruvian than Japanese, he replied that he was as Peruvian as they were. "But," he smiled, pointing to his face, "these eyes will help."

Maybe, for a country keen to show its willingness to pull its weight in the world, to rescue Peru from terrorism would be a shrewd move. The cost, though substantial, is a drop in the ocean of Third World need. Unlike Britain, caught in the

expensive and thankless ritual of giving a little bit of aid to many hopeless nations. Japan could concentrate on one: and make a newsworthy difference: a graphic illustration of beneficence. For this would be a "story": a boy from a Japanese emigrant family makes good, halfway across the world, and turns back to the land of his ancestors for support.

Peru is a friendly place and a grown-up nation. It has resources, a proud history and much sophistication, even among the poor. Its people are worried to distraction about what is happening to their country. Peasants anxiously ask you what you think should be done. They do not blame the Yankees, as they used to, Peru leaves violently confused images, often bizarre. Cuzco cathedral has a great "Last Supper" in oils, many centuries old. In the traditional style — except that Christ is eating not bread, but a guinea pig.

The evening before leaving Cuzco, I looked into the nearby Church of Santa Mercedes. In the darkness one could see nothing save one corner, where a huge solid silver cross glinted, surrounded by Indians all trying to touch it. An old woman had eluded her way to the front, and with arm outstretched, pressed her fingers onto the base of the cross. When I left, she was still there, motionless, eyes wide with adoration.

On the train towards Bolivia the next day, I saw an elderly man, clambering to a free ride between the carriages, his belongings in a sack. He fell, jerking his body off the rails inches ahead of the rushing carriage wheel. A woman helped him to his feet, and he stood with his burden, smiling sadly and shaking his head.

By Lake Titicaca, we saw a market, technically on the Bolivian side of the frontier, with police turning a blind eye. Indian women were running dozens of them, towards the Peruvian side, dragging huge plastic bags. They were full of noodles. At Bolivian prices, these were the new breed of smugglers: noodle runners.

Conor Cruise O'Brien on Israel's complex role in Muslim resentment of the West

Keen pupils of our own prejudice

Muslim resentment of the West is often attributed — especially in Europe — to the results of American support for Israel. In reality, the resentment was well established long before the Zionist enterprise began. We need not go back to the Crusades, although the Crusades are frequently evoked these days in Muslim polemics against the American build-up in Saudi Arabia and the Western blockade of Iraq. In its modern form — resentment of Western technological, economic and military superiority — this bitterness is at least 150 years old.

In the 1830s, a Muslim thinker wrote: "After a while Islam became strangely weak, a piece of whiteness surrounded by the blackness of its enemies. It was as if God had absented Himself, leaving it to face the most severe troubles." That was written 50 years before the first rumblings of political Zionism were heard on university campuses in the Russian Empire, after the anti-Jewish pogroms that followed the assassination of Tsar Alexander III.

In Islamic theology, the "white-

ness" of which that Muslim wrote is called the House of Islam. The surrounding "blackness" is the House of War, the lands held by the infidels. The House of Islam is promised victory over the House of War, for Islam is a triumphalist religion, not just spiritually but in terrestrial and territorial terms. Whatever their rulers may say and do, the pious Muslim masses of the Middle East see the Gulf confrontation as the House of War on the march against the House of Islam: a horrible inversion of the rightful order of things.

Israel is seen as a salient of the House of War into the House of Islam: a black wedge driven into the white heartland. This alone ensures that most of the time, Israel is foremost in the hierarchy of Muslim resentments. But the United States and Britain have been moving up and are now more or less on a par with Israel.

Although resented, Israel is seen as vulnerable; militarily formidable, as Muslims know to their cost, but capable of being politically and psychologically isolated. Those manning the salient enjoy less than unwavering support from

the main body. Complaints against the West in general fall on deaf ears, but complaints against Israel find a ready audience, and so are an effective way to express a resentment that extends to the West as a whole.

Historically, Islam was never as hostile to Jews as Christianity once was. In Muslim lands, Jews had the same status as Christians: second-class people who were tolerated if they respected the rules laid down for them by their Muslim masters. But in Palestine at the end of the 19th century this began to change. The virulent anti-Semitism then raging in several European countries began to communicate itself to Muslims. This was partly a result of the progress of the Zionist enterprise, but it was largely the result of the interpretation of that enterprise by European anti-Semites living and teaching in Palestine.

Around the turn of the century, the French Catholic teaching orders were especially zealous transmitters of European anti-Semitism. Arabs who received a Western education imbibed along with it copious draughts of anti-

Semitism. These were of course mostly Christian Arabs, but the Christians were not slow in passing on the message to their Muslim brothers, after the revolution in the Ottoman Empire in July 1908.

The most notable product of that revolution was the emergence, for a time, of a free press, including an Arabic-language press. Christian Arabs, who had almost a monopoly of education, ran and wrote the new newspapers, and used them to disseminate Arab nationalism and anti-Zionism — inseparable from European-type anti-Semitism.

Few Arabs could read the new newspapers, but in most villages there was someone who could read them to his neighbours. It was easy to understand a picture of a noble-looking Saladin with a scimitar confronting a decrepit old Jew with a money bag. In these ways, and under local symbols, the European strand of anti-Semitism became domesticated in the Middle East. There it continues to flourish, long after European anti-Semitism became discredited, or learned to camouflage itself.

In Palestine after the first world

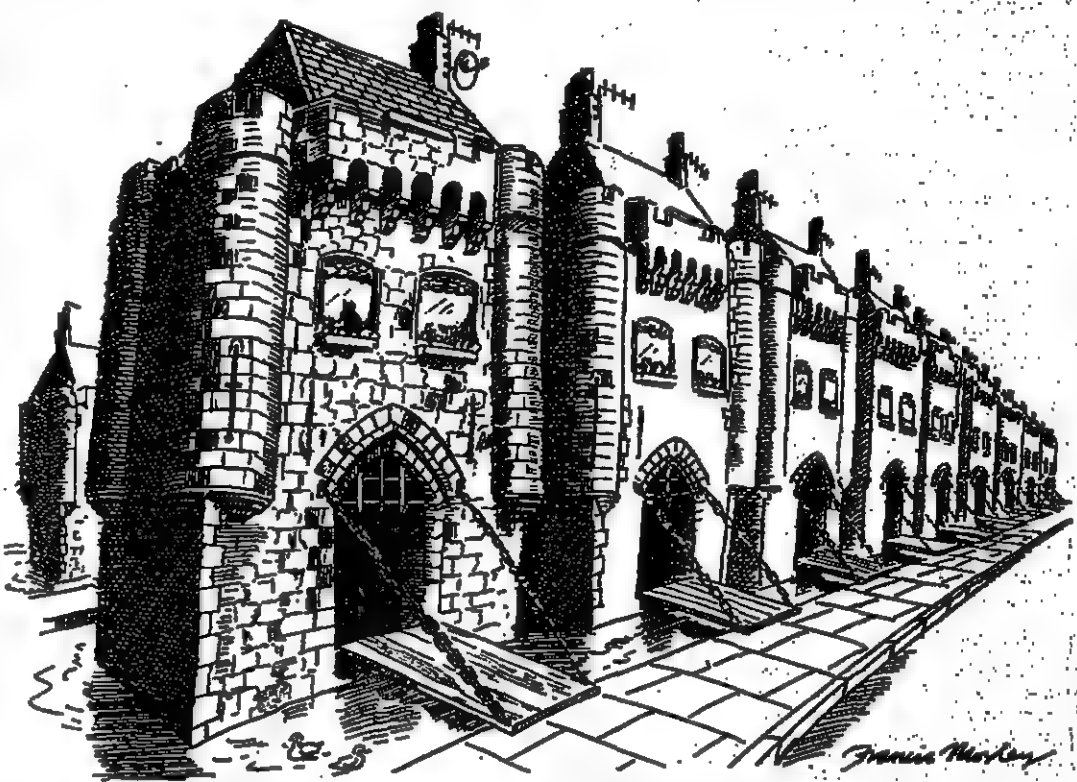
war, anti-Semitism received strong reinforcement from the British army during the early, military government phase of the British Mandate. The officers detested the Balfour Declaration, saying that Palestine had not been conquered just to be handed over to the Jews. Some were openly and crudely anti-Semitic. All of them were anti-Zionist.

You don't have to be anti-Semitic to be anti-Zionist, but it helps.

The Gulf confrontation is leading to a growing awareness in the West that Muslim resentment is not only of Israel, nor likely to be appeased by an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, nor even by Israel's extinction. The West can also see that the rulers of Muslim lands are prepared to co-operate with the West, ignore the resentment of their subjects, and forget about Israel, whenever this satisfies their hostility towards Arab rivals.

However the present crisis is resolved, its long-term results are likely to include a more sophisticated approach to the Middle East. It's about time.

Not just an exclusion zone: the foundation of freedom



Jonathan Clark traces the English obsession with home ownership to a centuries-old desire for independence

The joys and despairs not of romance but of house ownership are the staples of English conversation. Two years ago we had to endure the machismo of those earning more from spiralling house prices than from their salaries, now we hear of the fading passion of those whose property is mortgaged for more than its still-falling market value.

Meanwhile, the great circus rolls on: the agents, solicitors and surveyors; the conveyancing, gazumping and gazundering; the injustices of rates or the poll tax; the inequities of plumbers, decorators and roofing cowboys... Why do we bother? Why do we not live happily in rented flats, or devise a form of tenure to match the American condominium?

Investment potential alone does not explain the cult status that house ownership occupies in the imaginations of the English: it has much older and more emotional roots. Not only do the English wish to own rather than rent, they own with a peculiar relish, and take a special delight in bricks and mortar which no financial asset of equal value could ever give.

"An Englishman's home is his castle." This resonant phrase still echoes in our society, however much it might sound like a grandiloquent boast by Gilbert and Sullivan or an atavistic insight of Kipling's. It is too easy to dismiss it as brag, one of those fake Victorian values that disguised the landlord's real-life experience of landlords and tenants. But however far the reality fell short of the ideal, the historical antecedents of this ringing declaration are powerful enough.

Its author was that redoubtable champion of the common law and foe of arbitrary Stuart rule, Lord Chief Justice Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634). He was making a technical comment on the law of property. The English elite's idolatry of the common law had much to do with the security it offered to private property — a security then almost unique in Europe.

Seventeenth and 18th-century patrician Englishmen read their property-centred notions of freedom back into the Anglo-Saxon past and created the myth of the sturdy freeholder. They exaggerated rather than misrepresented

the term "freeholder" goes back to 1425 at least. Dr Johnson was clear in defining freehold land ("held by far better conditions, and by the better sort of tenants, as noblemen and gentlemen"), as opposed to land held by villeinage, "commonly in the possession of clowns, being that which we now call the soil of the lord".

Freehold long preceded capitalism or economic individualism: it was devised in England some time between Domesday Book and the reign of Henry II. The forms of free tenure almost all called for military or ceremonial services by the free tenant to his lord, rather than money payment or manual labour. So freehold began to be considered more honourable than any other form of tenure: security meant independence; dependence meant servility and dishonour.

A whole set of terms came to resonate with "freeholder": freeman, freeborn, freemason, freelance, freethinker. All could be

traced back not just to the amount of wealth, but to its form. Freehold land was the ideal. The 17th-century orthodox, expressed even by Cromwell in the army debates at Putney in 1647, excluded from the franchise servants and those in receipt of alms by definition, they were not free but dependent. For the same reason, jury service was long the preserve of householders.

English political attitudes in the 17th and 18th centuries embraced a set of attitudes now known to scholars as civic humanism. Only those with a stake in the country could be trusted: the moneyed interest could easily disappear abroad in a crisis, but the freeholder would stand and fight to defend both his property and English liberties. What was good for freeholders was good for the nation.

So political status long depended on the form of tenure. The Act of 1430 that restricted the

county franchise to owners of freeholds worth at least 40 shillings a year remained in force until the Reform Act of 1832, and affirmed the close link between economic independence and political trustworthiness. The ideal citizen was a freeholder. Proposals for universal suffrage were rare.

Delight in ownership spanned the political spectrum. The Tory Samuel Johnson, defining "freehold" in his Dictionary, quoted the Whig Joseph Addison: "There is an unspeakable pleasure in calling any thing one's own: a freehold, though it be but in ice and snow, will make the owner pleased in possession, and stout in the defence of it."

Exactly the same relish is felt by English property owners today. They experience more than the ordinary pleasure of possession: freehold has a special ring to it. The English still relate to their houses in a unique way.

This spans the social spectrum, too. If the English thought that the health of the state was dependent on the virtues of its citizens, those virtues were normally regarded as private ones, not an unselfish, unrewarded shouldering of public or collective duties, but the harmlessly limited horizons of heart and home. This distinction between the contentedly domestic and the restlessly public character closely paralleled the distinction between the "respectable" and the "unrespectable" working classes.

Some in the intelligentsia have always condemned economic advance (denounced as "luxury") on the grounds that it enables ordinary people to withdraw from a public world of shared goods and collective virtue into the achingly sufficient private sphere. Opposition to the sale of council houses in our own day is only the most recent manifestation of this. The critics have a point: not only yuppies believe in cheap government and prefer to shut their doors on the world; large numbers of the marginally mobile use their smaller wealth to buy privacy too. English social life is still characterised by the high value placed on privacy. Gift and salon society never developed here. Even the institutionalised collectivism of clubs and colleges has faded. In personal relations, Englishmen are inhibited not so much by shyness as by a desire not to intrude on each other's private space: even a handshake feels intrusive. The English character is well guarded, behind superficial courtesy, a locked front door bars access to the true self.

Privacy, political liberty, personal independence and self-esteem form a heavy mix. Happy the society in which status can be expressed in more mobile goods, whether Cadillacs or camels. The English are so locked into the nexus of home ownership that it is idle to speculate whether this is a good thing. Only one outcome seems realistic: when the level of home ownership nears 100 per cent, perhaps it will cease to be a definer of status. Then we can stop gilding our cages and begin to distance ourselves from this most central of our possessions.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Chocks away for Walton

Music written by the late Sir William Walton for wartime morale-boosting films is at last to get a re-hearing as part of next week's celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

After the war Walton was adamant that the compositions, for *The Next of Kin*, *The Foreman Went to France* and about a dozen other films, should never be played again. But his Argentine-born widow, Susana, has agreed that the ban can now be lifted. Speaking yesterday from her home on the Italian island of Ischia, she said: "The films were made to show how courageous the British were. When William was alive he did not want the music played again because he felt it would be out of context. Now the war is all but forgotten, and I am sure he would be happy for the works to be revived."

Collated under the title "War-time Scrapbook", they will receive their first public performance next Saturday at the Barbican, which rose years later out of the debris of one of the most heavily bombed areas of London. The BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Sir David Willcocks, will also play Walton's "Spitfire Fugue" and unused sections of the score he wrote for the film *The Battle of Britain* which were only recently rediscovered and have not publicly been heard before.

Lady Walton is flying to Britain specially for what she calls "this poignant occasion". The concert will be introduced by Michael Bentine, an RAF pilot during the

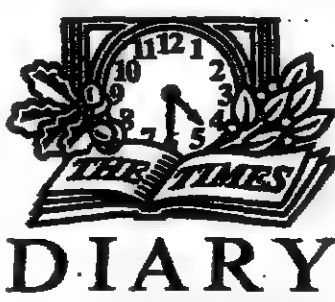
war, and will be recorded for BBC broadcast around Armistice Day.

Do the works merit revival? "It's hard to tell," says broadcaster and composer John Armit. "When a great composer dies, people scramble around looking for every little bit of unknown work. It happened to Benjamin Britten: some of what they found was very good and some quite poor. Walton wrote some of the greatest film music ever, for *Henry V* and *Hamlet*, so the standard should be high. The musical world is looking forward with anticipation."

Believe it or not

Novelist D.M. Thomas continues to nurse a grudge against the Gloucestershire choirboy who 15 years ago predicted that he would die in California. Although he insists that he is "only slightly superstitious", he has studiously avoided crossing the state line into the land of sunshine, surfers and celluloid make-believe. "It's the place I have always wanted to go. My parents lived there when they were young and I have a sister there. But I feel that if I go there the prophecy will be self-fulfilling, that in my anxiety I shall die from a heart attack."

The self-imposed ban has cost Thomas dearly. He has turned down lucrative speaking engagements at Stanford University and in San Francisco. "When *The White Hotel* won *The Los Angeles Times* fiction prize they offered me a first-class ticket and an all-expenses-paid trip. I said no. My sister Lois collected it and I sent a tape." Thomas says that had this prediction been that he would die in London he would ignore it, because that is one place to which



he simply has to go. "I shall probably feel over miles away from California in a restaurant back Beverly Hills."

● The death of A.J.P. Taylor prompts Lord Beloff to recall an afternoon some years ago when he and the eminent historian sat a mock common entrance exam at Westminster School. "Alan and I weren't very good at it, particularly mathematics," says the 77-year-old Beloff. "Jilly Cooper and Joanna Lumley also sat the exam, and the papers were marked by the headmaster, John Roe. Taylor was highly amused that Miss Lumley achieved the highest marks, leaving the two academics trailing in her intellectual wake."

Knight must fall

Not content with arrogating to himself the title Al-Farisi Al-Arabi, "the knight of Arabia", earlier this year, Saddam Hussein ordered the destruction of a statue bearing the same name. One of the most famous in Baghdad, it stood at the entrance to the city's international fairground. Another statue has now gone up in its place — a 30R bronze of Saddam complete with familiar beret and revolver, set in

a one-acre site adorned with flowerbeds, fountains and floodlights. Rumour also has it that owners of shops and restaurants called Al-Farisi Al-Arabi have been told to change their names so that Baathist party lore can insist that although there may have been a thousand and one Arabian nights, there is only one Arabian knight.



Squeezed out

One explanation of the unpopularity of Michael Forsyth among Scottish Tories may lie in his choice of pets. Forsyth, who resigned yesterday as Scottish Tory chairman, is the proud owner of several pythons. He bought the first several years ago and it has since become part of the family, along with the offspring which it immediately produced. They hold pride of place in a glass tank in the children's nursery at the family home at Aberfoyle, near Stirling. Forsyth's two children feed their live mice which are kept in a cage

above. Friends who yesterday confirmed the existence of the pythons denied suggestions that one has been named Biffins after the Scottish secretary of state with whom Forsyth is said to have less than cordial relations.

Carey me back

What better fate to befall the next Archbishop of Canterbury than to be stranded in the Holy Land? Conscious that he will have little time for recreation when he takes up his new post, Dr George Carey has been enjoying a three-week break in Israel with his wife Eileen and 40 of his Bath and Wells flock. While the rest of the world's interest in the Middle East has concerned chemical weapons attacks and doom suits, Dr Carey has been peering at its ancient Christian monuments. He was due home yesterday morning, but because of a technical fault the plane had not even left London yesterday afternoon. Virgin boss Richard Branson will not be asked to arrange a rescue flight.

Last with the news

Despite extensive radio and TV coverage, the demise of the SDP has not registered on some BBC employees. After five months winding up the party's affairs, Tim Rycroft, general secretary, yesterday received a letter from the BBC asking for an SDP conference agenda. "The BBC film and videotape library produce a detailed subject catalogue of each year's conference, and the agenda is an extremely useful reference tool," it says. Not only has the conference been cancelled, Rycroft's job also became extinct.



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PARTNERS IN NEED

The "working meeting" in Helsinki tomorrow between President Bush and President Gorbachev will bear more directly and immediately on peace in the world than any of their formal summits. Should their unity in opposing Iraqi aggression falter, or even be seen to falter, the odds on war in the Gulf will shorten, perhaps decisively. The Americans have consistently sought to make stopping Iraq a joint venture. The strength of Mr Gorbachev's claim to "full partnership" with the United States will be tested by his readiness to give Mr Bush firm support in the international alliance the American president has been seeking to forge.

Nothing like this international solidarity has been seen since 1945. The Soviet Union could not, in its weakened state, stop the United States from acting unilaterally in the Gulf (which there is no evidence President Bush wishes to do), but it could, by weakening the coalition, bring closer the prospect that force will have to be used, even without the express authorisation of the UN Security Council. But that would be in nobody's interest, least of all Moscow's. If Iraq refuses to bow to UN resolutions and withdraw from Kuwait, the choice is between forcing it out of Kuwait militarily, or accepting, perhaps definitively, that collective security cannot deter aggression.

Since invading Kuwait, Iraq's diplomacy has been exclusively devoted to dividing the Arab world, the United Nations and the super-powers. So far, President Saddam Hussein has failed in his efforts to present the conflict not as Iraq versus the world, but Iraq versus the United States; but should Soviet support for a policy of no compromise weaken, he would consider himself within sight of that goal. For the same reason, Mr Bush cannot accept any formal Soviet role as "mediator", since that would also reinforce Iraq's claim that the issue was between Baghdad and Washington.

Sanctions are a double-edged weapon. If the super-powers blink, Iraq will stay in Kuwait, draw on its ample grain stores while intensifying its efforts to persuade Iran (and Arab neighbours) of the inhumanity of "letting Iraqi children starve". It will then wait for Western and Arab resolve to weaken. Were the Soviet Union's known desire for a diplomatic solution seen in Baghdad as a possible first step to a veto against further UN authority for military action, Saddam would be encouraged to bluff it out. This week's hasty visit to

Moscow by Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, reflects Iraq's anxiety to shift the Soviet Union's stance at least to that of semi-detached observer.

Mr Aziz sought Soviet support for Iraq's demand that the Security Council link all conflicts in the region to any (unspecified) Iraqi concessions over Kuwait. Despite the Soviet Union's long-standing support for a Middle East peace conference, this proposal was dismissed as a ruse aimed at buying time. Mr Aziz was reminded that Iraq's aggression was "top of the agenda". Having extracted from Mr Aziz a public statement that Soviet advisers in Iraq are free to leave — enabling Mr Gorbachev to announce their withdrawal at the Helsinki talks — Mr Aziz's suggestion that he return next week was tartly rebuffed.

Mr Gorbachev's support is unlikely, however, to be unconditional. Iraq's invasion comes at a difficult moment in Soviet relations with the Arab world, where reductions in aid to countries such as Syria and emigration by Soviet Jews have both been ill-received. The Soviet Union's courage in jettisoning its traditional policies and allies in the Middle East gives Mr Gorbachev the right to ask Mr Bush for assurances that the American presence in no way repeats old super-power rivalry in the region. He will also raise the urgency of solving the Palestinian problem, albeit without giving comfort to Saddam.

That is a difficult trick to pull off, made harder by the Palestinians' open support for Iraq's aggression. The best approach would be a pledge of super-power cooperation in promoting future security in the region, after Iraq's withdrawal has been secured. Mr Gorbachev would gain considerable kudos were Mr Bush to agree to start planning for a force to maintain regional deterrence, either under a UN flag or "coordinated" by the five permanent members through the UN's military staff committee — a body the Soviet Union has been pressing for some years to reactivate.

America has been lukewarm towards such coordination, but to explore the scope for it would be a small concession in a large cause. Helsinki must bring home to Saddam that in this test of the principle that aggression must not pay, there are no differing nuances to exploit. At this critical point in the construction of a post Cold War order, the super-powers must not flinch.

THE FORSYTH SAGA

The Scottish Conservative Party has a mere ten parliamentary seats. According to the current state of the polls half even of these are at risk. In such precarious circumstances, the presence of one of the least Thatcherite members of the cabinet, Malcolm Rifkind, as secretary of state for Scotland represented the prime minister's tactical recognition that the Thatcherisation of Scotland was no longer opportune — if ever it was. The appointment instead of one of her staunchest supporters, Michael Forsyth, as Scottish party chairman indicated her judgment that before spreading her gospel to the country it had first to be preached to the party.

The dangers in this dual approach were obvious and soon surfaced. Mrs Thatcher yesterday paid the humiliating price of having to replace Mr Forsyth as chairman by Lord Sanderson of Bowden. The ill-concealed conflict between Mr Rifkind and Mr Forsyth — or their respective champions — was making such a noise in Scottish Tory politics that it was frustrating both Mr Rifkind's role as conciliatory satrap and Mr Forsyth's missionary zeal.

Throughout this administration, politics north of the border has tended to look to the Scots like Sassenach colonialism. The Scottish Labour party has succeeded in portraying Thatcherism as an alien English idea, aided by the cabinet's astonishing ineptitude of imposing the poll tax on the Scots a year early "as an experiment". Had Mrs Thatcher paid attention to the application of her politics in Scotland — including privatisation, industrial reconstruction and local government reform — she might by now be benefiting from a political return. Instead she is on a hiding to nothing.

She has found the Scottish Tory establishment incorrigible and, in their demand for Mr Forsyth's head as chairman, irresistible. They feared that driving the Scottish party further to the right at this stage in the present parliament would be to invite electoral disaster. They are

almost certainly right. Politics in Scotland is a curious mirror image of politics in the south. Just as Labour has been forced to move towards the right in order to win friends in southern England, Scottish Conservatism has had to move leftwards towards the ground held in strength and depth by Labour. A Labour victory in the next election would look like a Scottish coup, since its dominance of the Opposition front bench.

Scottish Tory MPs are so small a group that Mrs Thatcher could not afford to neglect Mr Forsyth's talents altogether. She clearly admires his street-fighting ability. In compensation for losing the party chairmanship, therefore, and to preserve the façade that everything is for the best, Mr Forsyth has been moved one step up the ministerial ladder in the Scottish Office, from undersecretary to minister of state.

Whether this will improve Tory fortunes north of the border is doubtful. The nub of the complaints against Mr Forsyth were of his alleged undermining of Mr Rifkind's position as secretary of state. It is hard to see how promoting him within the department, and thus raising his status under Mr Rifkind, will send out a message that Mr Rifkind still has her fullest confidence. It is more likely to compound her problem rather than solve it.

The Tory problem in Scotland, and in Wales and Northern Ireland, is deep, rooted in a total lack of sympathy for regional sentiment and near-fanatical pursuit of centralisation. In England, this has been compensated by privatisation. In Scotland, the corporatist tradition lives on, replicated in the Scottish Office and its quangos, its subsidies and its patronage. When times are hard, as now they are becoming, London offers an easy target for regional dismay. In the Forsyth saga, Mrs Thatcher's centralist chickens are coming home to roost.

IRON MAIDS AMILKING

The revelation in Thursday's *Times* that researchers at the Agricultural and Food Research Council are about to develop a robot milkmaid brings the ultimate computer a step nearer. The ultimate computer is not some Orwell-plus contraption that replaces humans altogether. Rather it is an Orwell-minus contraption that specialises in two related areas: doing everything we could do for ourselves and a few things we would prefer not to be done at all.

Ultima, she might be called. Ultima will be small and compact and mains or battery operated (plugs and batteries not supplied). Ultima will be durable and mobile (but keep away from children). While milking cows, Ultima will play chess too well, wash up while caddy for golfers, then mow the lawn and clean the car simultaneously.

For office use, she will have a built-in coffee machine (which does not take the new five pence piece) and an inbuilt photocopying function which so closely resembles the existing equipment that she can be guaranteed to jam every time she is faced with a document marked urgent. She will run out of materials on a rota basis: today paper, tomorrow ink. When she goes wrong she will flash signs which are either incomprehensible or so expressed as to imply that the user is a complete idiot. Her operating manual will have been translated from Japanese by another computer.

Ultima will be something less than the sum of her parts, all of which exist already in the buy-by-mail supplements that fall out of the

Sunday papers. Therein lay Ultima's antecedents. Ever since the United States patent office shook hands with the inventor of the electric toothbrush (instead of calling a psychiatrist), such lunacies have replicated themselves in the workshops of people who regard necessity as the last mother invention needs.

They are the synchronised swimmers of science, clever but pointless. They have enabled everything to plug into a car's cigar lighter, but still not come up with a car battery that can take the load. They invented the electric carving knife. They boast of their washing-up machines. "Of course, the secret is to wash the stuff off first."

These glories, like the robot milkmaid, are not progress. Like Victorian contraptions for cleaning moustaches, they are obsolete at the moment of conception. The trouble with milk lies not in the efficiency of its extraction from the cow, but in the amount extracted. If the robot milkmaid is more efficient than the buxom wench of legend, then that is a conclusive argument against the former and in favour of the latter. Would French farmers put out the tricolours for British lamb if they knew that the shepherd was made of aluminium? A robot to reduce food surpluses would be worth its weight in gold, but remains uninvited. K-9 may have boosted the *Dr Who* ratings, but that does not mean the BBC should expect us to sit down at a Sunday evening in front of *One Man and his Border Robot*.

Efforts to combat Gulf aggression

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, A multinational armada of warships is assembling in the Straits of Hormuz, the lower Gulf, and in the Red Sea to enforce UN-mandated sanctions against Iraq.

To be effective the operations of this armada must be coordinated and controlled by force commanders in each of these sea areas. Otherwise there will be costly and wasteful duplication of effort and individual units will be at risk due to lack of organised defence against possible Iraqi attacks. The danger of mistaken identity and consequent combat confusion whether at sea or in the air will be increased.

Only the United States has deployed balanced naval forces with their own integrated air support from aircraft carriers. Lacking such support all West European warships in the potential combat areas are vulnerable to air and missile attack.

Has the United States undertaken to provide air support and cover for West European naval units deployed in the Gulf and Red Sea? Should not West European naval forces already deployed be formed into a single force under a senior officer with a multinational staff to operate in defined areas and provided with a coordinating centre?

As providers of the two largest European naval contributions to sanctions enforcement Britain and France should take the initiative in the Western European Union to ensure that its naval forces are deployed in the most cost-effective and secure manner.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CHICHESTER,
The Mead House,
Taynton,
Burford, Oxfordshire,
September 3.

From Mr H. V. Hodson

Sir, Calls for "an Arab solution" in the Gulf come both from Iraq and from moderate and friendly countries like Jordan and Egypt. The idea is nonsense, and not only because the Arab nations are radically split on the issue at stake.

A "solution", however arrived at, must start either from the retreat and humiliation of Saddam Hussein or from United Nations surrender on the vital cause of Kuwait's national independence, full reparations and future security: one may be forgiven for suspecting that "an Arab solution" means surrender.

It is as precedent that the idea is most nonsensical and ultimately dangerous. It implies that political, defensive and economic conflicts between nations should be categorised and settled in terms of ethnic interest. Thus countries as far off as Morocco would be involved in the Gulf affair, but no neighbours like Iran or Turkey, let alone countries in Europe, North America and other continents, however closely they may be concerned on other grounds.

If the same formula were applied elsewhere, problems in Eastern Europe would call for "a Slav solution", in central and southern

Africa for "a negro solution", in Ireland and Scotland for "a Gaelic solution", and so on. In Arab countries themselves, non-Arab minorities like Kurds in Iraq, Berbers in North Africa or Nilotics in Egyptians would count for no more than would Europeans or Americans.

Even worse, "an Islamic solution", which has also been mooted, would imply a worldwide political edifice of Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and other religious sectors, more threatening even than ethnic partition. The world is, as it has been ever since the rise of the nation state, organised in national, international and geographic regional structures.

The concept of a regional solution of the Gulf problem makes sense, provided that it brings in all major interests in the region, including of course, Israel and countries with vital economic and strategic interests there. An Arab solution does not.

Yours faithfully,
H. V. HODSON,
Flat 1, 105 Latham Gardens, W8,
September 6.

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, Watching the House of Commons debate on the Gulf yesterday, I was surprised to see so many MPs, led by Edward Heath, draw analogies between the United Nations decisions on Kuwait and on Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Before this becomes part of the folklore of the debate, it should be pointed out that the operative UN resolution, 242, requires not only Israeli withdrawal, but also termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the region and its right to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries.

This would entail formal recognition of Israel by the Arab states and an end to economic boycotts and the rest of the paraphernalia of hostility. It was indeed for this very reason that the Syrian representative, when invited to address the Security Council in 1967, rejected 242 because it made Israeli withdrawal conditional. The UN, however, chose not to accept the Syrian point of view.

Thus, if Israel is accused of rejecting 242, the Arab states are equally guilty, in that they have failed to comply with the second part of the resolution. Adherence to international obligations is not a unilateral requirement, to be required of some states and not of others.

I find it difficult to understand the mentality of MPs who, when faced with a region containing such tyrants as Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi, persist in finding the root of all evil in the Middle East in the policies — or is it the existence? — of Israel.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford,
September 7.

Hostages' return

From Professor N. Kurti, FRS

Sir, I have been sickened by the sight of women and children who have just spent many hours in an aeroplane making their way slowly and painfully down the landing steps at Heathrow.

Is there no official of BAA at hand with the authority and the courage to overrule the demands of the media and the political propaganda and to insist on humanitarian grounds that passengers should disembark in the customary manner on the level using the raised walkways?

Yours faithfully,
N. KURTI,
Brasenose College, Oxford,
September 7.

Type-cast actors

From Mr Bernard Bresslaw

Sir, Your third leader (September 4) on the ethnic suitability of actors touches on a practice which is as old as theatre itself. Ever since the Greeks put on stereotyped masks the unimaginative habit of type-casting has been a bane of actors and acting.

In the 16th-century play, *The Return from Parnassus*, the character of Kempe, addressing the potential actor Philomusus, tells him, "your face methinks would be made for a foolish Mayor or a foolish Justice of the Peace". But what should a foolish mayor look like, or a sensible scientist, or a passionate painter, or a sober businessman? If the average director were casting a play featuring a dramatist, an essayist and a poet, it seems certain that Shakespeare, Johnson and Pope would all fall the first audition on appearance alone.

Ivory trade

From Sir Christopher Lever

Sir, The British government failed to give the lead that might have been expected from it in the campaign to ban the trade in ivory (letters, August 27, September 3).

I have before me a letter dated May 8, 1989, from the then Minister for the Environment, the Earl of Cairness, in which he says, "we have taken the view that a total ban on trade would not be the best way to protect the elephant. If all trade were made illegal, the scarcity value of ivory would cause prices to rise".

In a further letter dated June 27, 1989, the minister says that on May 23 he had "announced the Government's view that there was now a case for the transfer of the

Plight in the desert

From Major-General J. D. Lunt

Sir, Having had some experience of the area concerned, and in the heat of high summer too, I found your report this morning of the conditions on the Iraq-Jordan border brought back uncomfortable memories. Surely it is not beyond the capabilities of the international community to organise immediate and massive relief, along the lines of the Ethiopian famine relief some years ago, or do we need to ask Bob Geldof to do it for us?

I am &c.,
JAMES LUNT,
Hilltop House,
Little Milton, Oxfordshire,
September 4.

Pakistan tribunals

From the Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan

Sir, Your leader of August 31 expresses unfounded fears that the Pakistan government was contemplating treason charges against the former prime minister. The government has set up special tribunals for the accountability of holders of representative offices. These tribunals will look into charges of corruption and misuse of authority.

It is also incorrect to suggest that the recent changes in Pakistan

were brought about at the behest of the armed forces. The President has clearly stated that he was constrained to exercise his powers because of acts of omission and commission against the constitution and the deteriorating law and order situation.

I may also reiterate that the government is committed to hold elections on October 24 and that there are no plans to postpone these elections.

Yours faithfully,
KHALID M. SHAHI,
High Commission for Pakistan,
35 Lowndes Square, SW1.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MANN,
25 Bark Hart Road,
Orpington, Kent.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LEVER,
Newell House, Winkfield,
Windsor, Berkshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Golf course sites as rural threat

From the President of the Garden History Society

Sir, Attention has been drawn by John Young (report, September 4) to the number of current applications for golf courses in the countryside and to the fact that it is estimated that some 700 new courses could be needed by the year 2000. Given that golf is a healthy and popular sport, and the development is arguably in keeping with green-belt principles, many of these applications will undoubtedly be permitted.

The report, however, states that conservationists are concerned about the siting of golf courses in environmentally sensitive areas, particularly as associated buildings are usually required. We consider that golf courses are totally inappropriate in historic landscapes. Fairways and bunkers sit ill in the smooth, elegant landscapes of Capability Brown.

There is an official register of parks and gardens of special historic interest and any applications for a golf course involving one of these important sites should be referred by the planning authorities to English Heritage to ensure that the course will not damage the designed landscape.

Yours faithfully,
MAVIS BATEY, President,
The Garden History Society,
West House, 151 Barrack Lane,
Aldwick, West Sussex,
September 4.

From Mr Hugh Stovin

Sir, Are we not most fortunate to have the opportunity to create enough golf courses for everyone to enjoy, when we have an ageing but affluent population who can look forward to a game that can be played into extreme old age?

A golf course uses far less chemical fertiliser and far fewer pesticides than an equivalent area of farm land. The Nature Conservancy Council is encouraging a progressive attitude to the use of parts of golf courses for wild life, and this policy is being enthusiastically adopted by all the golf courses I know.

For golf to be economically viable, land has to be relatively

Cathedral aid

From the Reverend Canon P. G. C. Brett

Sir, The Reverend Michael Lloyd (September 4) sadly is probably right in his suspicion "that average churchgoers would not put the preservation of ancient buildings as a high priority for the mission of the Church".

Yet, I would suggest, a building imbued with the worship of centuries, well preserved, lovingly used, bearing the marks of active religious life and presented with an eye to the appraisal of the casual visitor, is one of the most effective tools of mission that the Church has to hand. Witness many an example of an English country church which in evoking respect for its condition leads many to pause to reflect on what it stands for.

The scale of opportunity for mission on the part of a well maintained and well ordered cathedral is immense. Our cathedrals are major visitor attractions and of the millions who pass through them each year there are

Maths tuition

From Mrs Alison Wolf

Sir, Mr Graham Searle (August 31) is quite correct. The difficulty of mathematics A level deters many students who might otherwise, at a later date, study technical and applied subjects such as engineering. It is also a major reason why so few adult returners are on scientific and technical courses.

Many people, in their working lives, maintain or improve their general writing and analytical skills. Very few actually learn more mathematics than they knew on leaving formal education. People who want to retrain as, say, engineers will almost certainly, therefore, need to refresh and upgrade their mathematics. They will also find that the only free-

standing courses generally available are A levels.

Students such as these do not need a course designed for potential university mathematicians and physicists. Nor, unfortunately, are they going to be helped by the current DES notion of building "core skills" such as numeracy into other A levels. It would surely make sense to develop mathematics AS level for such students rather than insisting that AS should be as difficult as A levels.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON WOLF,
London University,
Institute of Education,
Department of Mathematics,
Statistics and Computing,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
September 3.

Yours faithfully,
KHALID M. SHAHI,
High Commission for Pakistan,
35 Lowndes Square, SW1.

Spiritual enterprise

From Prebendary A. Talbot-Ponsonby

Sir, It comes as a surprise that my friend the Reverend Robert Grimley (September 1) should accept the role of "The Marketing Manager, St George's Church", as I have always understood that the clergy were in sales, not management — unless as marketing manager he wants the best of both worlds.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANDREW TALBOT-PONSONBY,
Kimbolton Vicarage,
Leominster,
Herefordshire,
September 1.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

cheap. The three periods of rapid golf course development have been in the agricultural depression shortly after the repeal of the Corn Laws, the Great Depression during the late 1920s and early 1930s and now, when the efficiency of our farmers has made large areas of farm land redundant.

It is within living memory that large areas of farm land particularly in Essex were derelict, overrun by rabbits and hawthorn scrub, with the farmers bankrupt and their buildings tumbling into ruin. Golf courses are surely better than that.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH STOVIN (Director),
Golf Centres Ltd.,
17 Market Place,
Oundle,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
September 4.

From Mr Carol Hanton

Sir, The Surrey Wildlife Trust has become increasingly worried by the number of golf course applications in Surrey over the last 18 months. The county currently has 66 golf courses and overall 36 outstanding planning proposals for courses or driving ranges.

Applications in the South-east have included valuable wildlife habitats including sites of special scientific interest and, in Surrey, even our own Trust nature reserves. The increase in the demand for acceptable green belt uses for surplus agricultural land also includes a meteoric rise in the number of requests to conduct war games.

In Surrey, the county council are urging the districts and boroughs to demand a detailed ecological assessment with every application as a first step towards securing positive environmental benefits from the recreational boom. However, national and regional guidance is necessary.

Yours sincerely,
CAROL HANTON
(Head of conservation),
Surrey Wildlife Trust,
The Old School, School Lane,
Pirbright,
Woking, Surrey,
September 5.

thousands for whom they represent the state of the Christian faith.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. C. BRETT
(Canon Residentiary,
Canterbury Cathedral),
22 The Precincts,
Canterbury, Kent,
September 4.

From Mrs Eileen Craine

Sir, I was sorry to read of the family in Mr Furze's letter (September 4) being unable to enter Ely Cathedral because of the admission charge. In my not unrelated line of business in the arts, I frequently hear parents complaining about the cost of tuition, music, books, and other aids to a more interesting way of life.

I do not hear many complaints about the cost of their cars, or holidays, or elaborate toys for the children, or generous pocket money for the drinks and crisp packets which litter our streets.

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN CRAINE,
59 Crawford Street, W1.

standing courses generally available are A levels. Students such as these do not need a course designed for potential university mathematicians and physicists. Nor, unfortunately, are they going to be helped by the current DES notion of building "core skills" such as numeracy into other A levels. It would surely make sense to develop mathematics AS level for such students rather than insisting that AS should be as difficult as A levels.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON WOLF,
London University,
Institute of Education,
Department of Mathematics,
Statistics and Computing,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
September 3.

Yours faithfully,
KHALID M. SHAHI,
High Commission for Pakistan,
35 Lowndes Square, SW1.

Source of the pouch

From Mr Roy McComish

Sir, Professor MacGregor-Hastie (September 4) attributes the modern money pouch to the Scottish sporran. This cannot be true since generally the pouch, attached as it is to a waist belt, is the direct descendant surely of the time-honoured money belt worn firmly around the waist by international travellers for generations.

No, the Scottish sporran is unique, fitted as it usually is to a chain worn loosely around the back of the waist and dropping downwards to the front of the kilt level with the crutch. Try to do that with a money pouch, wearing jeans, and see how you get on!

Yours sincerely,
ROY MCCOMISH,
5 St Peter's Road,
Oundle,
Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 7: This morning The Princess Royal returned from a visit to West Berlin.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, visited the Tweddale Group at arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Colonel Aidan Spry of Haydon.

Afterwards The Princess Royal opened Provost Walker Court and Old Town, Peebles, for Eldon Housing Association.

Mrs Richard Carew Pule was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 7: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, this morning visited the Botanic Gardens, 730 Great Western

Road, Glasgow and planted a tree to celebrate the Conference of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens. Subsequently, Her Royal Highness visited Daniel House of the Mentally Handicapped Trust at 243 Nithsdale Road, Glasgow.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mrs Susan Baird, the Right Hon. the Lord Provost), Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon presented prizes to the Horticultural Diploma Students and subsequently opened the School of Horticulture Education Centre at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Forces Study Group, will attend the annual meeting and conference of the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth, at 10.30.

TOMORROW: The Princess Royal will attend the international 5.5 metre class Scandinavian Gold Cup Championships at Torbay at 2.35.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Peter Allen, former chairman, ICI, 85; Professor Sir Derek Barton, chemist, 72; Mr Graham Bradley, jockey, 38; Sir John D.K. Brown, company director, 77; Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, composer, 56; Miss Anne Diamond, broadcaster, 56; Mr Michael Frayn, playwright, 57; Mr James Sabin, headmaster, Winchester College, 49; Mr Richard Sharpe, rugby player, 52; Countess Spencer, 61; Mrs Mavis Steele, bowler, 62.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.S.L. Beresford and Miss B.A. Jones
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Roger S. Beresford and of Mrs Fiona Beresford, of Headington, Oxford, and Bryony, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Denis Jones, of Hambledon, Surrey.

Mr M. Burhill and Miss A. Cockram
Mr and Mrs Peter Burhill, of Sherwood, Fox Hill, Sussex, are delighted to announce the engagement of their younger son Martin to Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Cockram, of Fairfield Way, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Mr M.R.J. Cairns-Terry and Miss A.C. Scott
The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Cairns-Terry, of Kennilworth, Warwickshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Scott, of Caversham, Berkshire.

Mr D.A. Campbell and Miss J.K. Law
The engagement is announced between Andy, son of Mr and Mrs Doon Campbell, of Mersham, Surrey, and Katie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Law, of London, NW1.

Mr I.R. Campbell and Miss C. Cottle
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of Mr Hugh Campbell, of White Waltham, Berkshire, and Christina, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Cottle, of Tadworth, Surrey.

Mr J.S. Curtis and Miss B. Benjamin
The engagement is announced between Job, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Curtis, of Kensington, London, and Jelinda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Benjamin, of Coombe Hill, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Falconer Hall and Miss S.D.K. Davies
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Lieutenant-Commander J.H. Falconer Hall, RN, (dec'd) and Mrs E. Falconer Hall, of Budestone, Wiltshire, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs Davies, of Keynsham, Avon.

Mr B.J. Frish and Mrs W. Burgess
The forthcoming marriage is announced between Bernard J. Frish, of New Brighton, and Mrs Winifred "Honey" Burgess, of Newlyn, Cornwall, and Stamford, Connecticut.

Mr J.H.M. Hare and Miss K.J. Davies
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Hare, of Deaking, Norfolk, and Kate, daughter of Mr Joan Davies, of Warrimster, Wiltshire, and the late Mr Peter Davies.

Mr A. Hewitt and Miss N.J. Radcliffe
The engagement is announced between Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. Hewitt, of Southbourne, Wiltshire, and Nicola Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs N.B. Radcliffe, of Edwalton, Nottingham.

Mr S.M. Hutchinson and Miss P.C. Rance
The engagement is announced between Stuart Miles, elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Donald Hutchinson, of West Kensington, and Penelope Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Rance, of Wargrave, Berkshire.

Mr A.M. James and Miss S.F. Ryan
The engagement is announced between Alexander, second son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs J.H. James, of West Lavington, Wiltshire, and Susan, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs S.F. Ryan, of Shrewton, Wiltshire.

Mr S.D. Johnson and Mrs K.E. Merton
The engagement is announced between Stuart David, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Roger S. Johnson, of Middlesex, and Kathryn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sid Jones, of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Mr J.F. King and Miss J.A. Wolstencroft
The engagement is announced between James Frederick, younger son of Mrs Marjorie King and the late Lieutenant-Commander F.J. King, DSC, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Julie Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Wolstencroft, of East Grinstead, Sussex.

Mr P.E.W. McDonald and Miss L.J. Morda
The engagement is announced between Paul Edward William, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. McDonald, of Disbury, Manchester, and Linda Jane, second daughter of Ronald and Patricia Martin, of Molecroft, Beverley, East Yorkshire.

Mr C.A. Macerwan and Mrs K.E. Blundell
The engagement is announced between Clive Macerwan and Karen Blundell, of Battersea, London.

Mr R.L.R. Ormerod and Miss L.M. Hahafeld
The engagement is announced between Robin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs F.J. Ormerod, of New Barnet, Hertfordshire, and Laura, daughter of Mr M.I.C. Hahafeld, of Crawley, Sussex, and Mrs P.M. Smith, of New Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Dr R.C. Peatfield and Miss S.J. Charles
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Peatfield, of Biddenham, Bedford, and Susan, daughter of the late Mrs Jean Charles, of Bedford, and of Mr Lawrence Charles, of Luton.

Mr A.J. Peck and Miss S.J. O'Neill-Dunne
The engagement is announced between Alan, younger son of Mrs Joyce Peck and the late Colonel Arthur Peck, of Clendon, Surrey, and Sally Jane, daughter of Mrs Cecilia O'Neill-Dunne and the late Patrick O'Neill-Dunne, of Melbourn, Cambridgeshire.

Mr M.P. Simmonds and Miss J.M. Emig
The engagement is announced between Michael Paul, only son of Mr Robert Simmonds, of London, and Mrs Mary Emig, of Fivichend, Somerset, and Julie Marie, daughter of Mr Michael J. Emig, of Olney, Maryland, USA, and the late Mrs Elaine P. Emig.

Mr V.E.C. Bernard and Miss C.H. Stomham
The engagement is announced between Mark David, son of Mr and Mrs C.H. Stomham, of Titchfield, Hampshire, and Victoria Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Bernard, of Beccles, Devon.

Mr M.R.P. Watkinson and Miss S. Weymont
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Major and Mrs M.R.P. Watkinson, of Courfield Gardens, London, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.D. Weymont, of Kellicott, Lancashire.

Mr G.R. Wilson and Mrs P. Henderson
The engagement is announced between Roy Wilson, of High Shinncliffe, Durham, and Patricia Henderson, of Chesley-Street, County Durham.

King's College London
Dr John D.E. Beynon, MSc, PhD, FEE, has formally taken up his appointment as Principal of King's College London. Dr Beynon joins King's from the University of Surrey, where he was Senior Vice-Chancellor.

OBITUARIES

A. J. P. Taylor, historian and journalist, died yesterday at the age of 84 after a long struggle against Parkinson's Disease. He was born on March 25, 1906.

PROBABLY the most controversial, and certainly the best known, historian in the English-speaking world, in his prime A. J. P. Taylor attracted — and usually bewitched — a wider following than Macaulay ever dreamt of. Prolific and best-selling author, gifted journalist, and a genuine television star, he attempted to transform the historical understanding of his day. With unflinching panache, he appealed, with varying success, both to the doubting professors and their more responsive students and to that amateur, "the man on the Clapham omnibus". An idiosyncratic left-winger of strong views and a charismatic orator, he was also renowned for his forays into populist politics, notably during the original Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Taylor's mastery of the media did not endear him to the academic establishment and he was often accused of sacrificing scholarship for those who disliked his well-publicised opinions. How far this denied him preference is debatable, despite the legends which stem from his failure to become Regius Professor at Oxford. A year earlier, in 1956, he was elected a fellow of the British Academy and gave the Ford Lectures, published in 1958 as *The Trouble Makers*. "By far my favourite brainchild", he said, "thereafter he was never short of recognition, and doctorates were bestowed upon him by Bristol, Manchester, Warwick and York as well as New Brunswick — a gift from Beaverbrook, the only man who ever persuaded him to cross the Atlantic."

As an historian Taylor belonged to no particular school nor did he found one, for all the influence he exercised. Before his death he dragged him away from his pupils he was a superb tutor, though he never cared for graduate students. But he could always fill the largest lecture-hall at the most inconvenient hour. Superficially, his approach to the past was defiantly old-fashioned: "politics express the activities of 'man in society', as the theme of history has rightly been called. All other forms of history seem to me history with the history left out." This was the formula he applied with infinite verve and sophistication to all his works both popular and professional. In the strictest sense the results were inimitable.

Taylor's methods were also his own and were a dangerous model. His early books were



the product of hard labour in the archives, but he came to depend upon assiduous reading in five languages and sheer intuition — "green fingers", in Namier's envious phrase.

There was no elaborate filing system, but a prodigious memory could usually supply some evidence for the views tapped out at the rate of 1,000 words a morning. He was often accused of being simplistic in his basic assumptions, cavalier in matters of detail, and perverse in interpretation. But his critics rarely denied the range of his erudition, the pungent clarity of his presentation, or the creative possibilities of his more outrageous hypotheses.

Alan John Percivale Taylor was born in Birdslake, Lancashire, the only son of a well-to-do cotton merchant. His parents were Edwardian Liberals who later became ardent supporters of the Labour party. His relations with them were always happy. A precocious and learned child, educated at Quaker schools, he went up from Bootham to Oriel College, Oxford, in 1924.

There he was briefly a member of the Communist party — "Tom Driberg's rank-and-file", worked for his father at Preston during the General Strike, and got his first as a medievalist. Abandoning the idea of becoming a labour lawyer, he went to Vienna in 1928 to work under Pribram

and met his first wife, Margaret, who later became the most generous of Dylan Thomas's patrons.

In 1930 Taylor was appointed a lecturer at Manchester, and began to make his name. His first book, *The Italian Problem in European Diplomacy (1934)* and *Germany's First Bid for Colonies (1938)*, were conventional in form but hinted at the mischief to come. He trained himself to lecture without notes, an art he developed to perfection. He harangued audiences of every sort as an opponent of appeasement and served his apprenticeship, under A. P. Wadsworth, as a reviewer and leader-writer on *The Manchester Guardian*.

Though he subsequently denied it, a profound influence upon him in these years was that of his professor, Namier, who helped him to return to Oxford in 1938 as a fellow of Magdalen. This was his base until 1976, when he retired as an honorary fellow.

Taylor remained in Oxford throughout the second world war. In 1941 he published the most elegant of his books, *The Habsburg Monarchy* — the second edition of 1948 was more detailed but less digestible. He lectured assiduously on wartime issues, in person and on the air, and his anti-German views were reinforced by his association

with the Slav refugees clustered in north Oxford. This led to his first best-seller in 1945, *The Course of German History*, a brilliant piece of occasion, and tempted him into confrontations with government and the BBC which paved the way for his later fame. As always, he found time for his college, and for his pupils as they returned from the wars.

In the 1950s Taylor became a national figure. On television programmes like *In the News* and *Free Speech* he took the public's fancy as something of a card, a quick-witted debater playing the role of a latter-day Cobbett. Subsequently, he was proud of his ability to deliver, direct to the camera, wide-ranging, unscripted lectures for the layman. He was a highly-paid columnist on the *Sunday Express* and prospered from the boom in popular, illustrated history. This did not prevent him travelling far and wide as an unpaid evangelist for the Historical Association, "my only good work", and he was a benevolent host to the earnest clientele of the Beaverbrook Library, of which he was the first (and last) director.

Meanwhile Taylor, the best-organised of men, had produced, in addition to an excellent sketch of *Bismarck* (1955), the three books on which his reputation largely

rested. *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe, 1848-1918* (1954) dealt in detail with his first love, international relations, and remains a standard text. The same cannot be said of *English History, 1914-45* (1965). Enthralling but eccentric, it is a self-indulgent essay on his own times rather than a balanced account. Much the more controversial, however, was *The Origins of the Second World War* (1961), which brought him world-wide notoriety. This was essentially an extension of his belief in the continuity of German history. Hitler was depicted as a natural (if monstrous) product of tradition and less the aggressive planner than a man who reacted to chance and contingency — one of his favourite themes. Bitterly attacked as condoning the Third Reich, it can now be seen as a dazzling exercise in revisionism which summed up Taylor's paradoxical, provocative and inventive approach to history.

His last substantial work was *Beaverbrook* (1972), a somewhat uneasy tribute to an improbable friend. Even so, this illustrated his versatility. Man of the left as he was, Taylor prided himself on his knowledge of business and the stock market, where he was a shrewd investor. Always frugal, he was nonetheless an admirable host whose table-talk was unvarnished, and he enjoyed domestic chores. In early days he had a peevish commitment to his vegetable garden and, later, became an indefatigable gardener, in his own words, "a bit of a nuisance". Though he came to see himself as a simple, true-born Englishman in old age, Taylor remained a cosmopolitan intellectual with an expert knowledge of European architecture, music and wine.

In August 1980 he resigned from the British Academy in protest at what he called a "witch hunt" by some members to remove the confessed traitor Anthony Blunt from membership. His resignation followed public controversy as to whether Blunt's actions were or were not the business of the academy. Taylor was not alone in believing that the academy should be concerned with the qualities and qualifications for which a member was elected and not dwell on other issues.

An emotional man, despite the brash exterior, he was three times married and devoted to his six children and their offspring. Some but not all of these characteristics were revealed in a sprightly autobiography, *A Personal History* (1983). He is survived by his dedicated wife, Eva Haraszti, herself an historian from Hungary, who did much to make his later years both happy and productive.

COLIN LAWSON

Colin Lawson, former Bonn correspondent of the Daily Express and one of the paper's most versatile news reporters, died on September 2 aged 74. He was born on March 20, 1916.

COLIN Lawson was a leading correspondent for the *Daily Express* in the days before popular newspapers largely abandoned their foreign services as a result of economies in Fleet Street and competition from television. He was a colourful journalist who had few equals in the speed with which he wrote his copy and, even more important, in the ingenuity with which he managed to get his stories transmitted to London well ahead of his rivals.

The threat of war dominated his school days at Dauntsey's School, near his family home in Wiltshire, and led him to volunteer immediately war was declared. He entered the Wiltshire Regiment, served in the Sicily landings and later in north-west Europe.

He was serving in Cologne as a lieutenant-colonel after the war when he became known as the man who sacked Konrad Adenauer. Although the decision, of course, was not Lawson's, it was he who was chosen to tell Dr Adenauer that he was no longer acceptable to the allies as lord mayor of Cologne. When Adenauer became chancellor the two men met frequently in Bonn. Lawson said Adenauer never referred to the incident but never greeted him very warmly either.

Lawson had worked for the *Wiltshire Times* and the *Western Daily Press* before the war and on demobilisation he was employed by Kemsley Newspapers in Manchester before joining the *Daily Express*.

The Express, owned by Lord Beaverbrook and edited by Arthur Christiansen, with its circulation of more than four million, was regarded at that time as the most glamorous of popular newspapers, with its foreign service as possibly its proudest feature. Lawson was anxious to join staff such as Sefton Delmer and René MacColl and his chance came in 1953 when he was a holiday relief in the paper's Bonn bureau. East Germans rioted in Berlin and Lawson was available to cover the story. His reports gained him an immediate permanent posting to Bonn.

He was not one of the paper's best writers but he was among its best informed. His attitude to Germans in the beginning was brusque and sometimes verged on the insulting. One Express foreign editor visiting Bonn asked him if he was still fighting world-war II or had unilaterally started world-war III. In fact, the Germans were intrigued by him and the Federal Republic rewarded him with the Verdienstkreuz.

Lawson was not just a Bonn specialist. He was a great roving reporter, despising it to report on politics and riots all over Europe and Africa and occasionally even further afield. He was in Baghdad during the worst days of the 1956 uprising. He had an experience of a Castro prison in 1961 and bluffed his way into Prague to report the Soviet invasion in 1968. In the 1970s, however, time ran out for the reporters of the "flaw in today to see the carnage" school of journalism. Television was reporting it first and foreign coverage was becoming more expensive. Lawson was told by the paper he had served so well that his future services were not required. He freelanced for a time in Brussels and Bonn and then retired.

He was married twice and is survived by his second wife, Pamela, and the two sons and a daughter of his first marriage.

ALLEN ADAMS



Allen Adams, Labour MP for Paisley North since 1983 and for Paisley from 1979 to 1983, died on September 5 aged 44. Since 1985 he had been Labour's Scottish whip. He was born on February 16, 1946.

ALLEN Adams occupied what was believed to be Keir Hardie's old office in the House of Commons, which was only appropriate for a Scottish socialist who believed passionately in both his country and his party.

Born in Paisley and educated at the town's Campbell High School and Reid-Kerr Technical College, he was above all a Paisley man. He served on its town council and its bench and was for a time its chief magistrate. In 1972 he was elected to Strathclyde

regional council, becoming vice-chairman of its social services council, and when John Robertson, the sitting MP, defected to the break-away Scots Labour party in 1976 it seemed only natural that Adams should be selected to fight and win the Paisley seat.

Soon after arriving at Westminster Adams asked for the return with interest of the £500 Paisley lent in 1945 to help put down Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite rebellion. Although Adams palpably made the suggestion with his tongue firmly in his cheek, it revealed what were to be his chief characteristics as an MP: his concern for his constituency and his flair for publicity. In the House he became a notable campaigner for more home rule for Scotland. He

introduced a number of private member's bills supporting causes in which he believed, including the early detection of muscular dystrophy and financial discrimination against unemployed men with working wives and other assets, which

provided useful propaganda without becoming law.

He had a wounding turn of phrase which often produced headlines, though occasionally he went too far. When his concern for his country led him to accuse Mrs Thatcher of treating Scotland with "all the sensitivity of a self-styled booby" he obviously had to obey the Speaker's instruction to withdraw the sentence. He did not, however, confine his attacks to Conservatives. He urged the expulsion from the party of a fellow MP, Ken Livingstone, for his attitude towards Sinn Féin, having previously said Mr Livingstone should be "booted into the Thames" for alleging that many Labour MPs spent their time in bars and brothels.

Before becoming an MP Adams had been a computer

analyst and a shipyard draughtsman. His bearded figure, at times appearing threatening when attacking his opponents, concealed a genial nature which made him a popular figure with all parties and particularly in his constituency, where he had built up his majority steadily until it was 14,442 in 1987.

He was the fifth Labour MP to die this year and his death was unexpected because he had just been released from a Paisley hospital after weeks of intensive care following a virus infection he had developed during a holiday in Spain. His wife, Irene, was recently selected as prospective Labour candidate for Argyll and Bute. They married in 1968 and he is survived by her and by a son and two daughters.

Church services for tomorrow

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
9.30 AM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 10.30 AM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 11.15 AM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 12.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 1.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 2.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 3.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 4.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 5.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 6.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 7.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 8.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 9.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 10.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 11.15 PM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow. 12.15 AM: St. Andrew's, 100, St. Andrew's Road, Glasgow.

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Marriages

Mr J.P. Courtenay-Pinfold and Miss J.C. Wilson
The marriage took place on September 7, at St. Mary's, Battersea, between Julia, daughter of Mr Ivan Pinfold, of East Lyford, Somerset, and Margaret Courtenay-Pinfold, of Chiswick, London, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Wilson, of Putney, London. Canon John Morris officiated.

Mr P. Goussard and Miss M. Bell
The marriage took place on September 7, 1990, at Elm-Road Chapel, Beckenham, between Priya Goussard and Miranda Bell.

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Chancellor E. Garth Moore

A Solemn Eucharist of Requiem for the late Chancellor Evelyn Garth Moore will be held on Wednesday, October 3, at 6 p.m. at St. Mary Abchurch, London, EC4.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

BIRTHS
BARRETT - On July 17th to Tracy and John, a son, James Peter George. Grandfather: Peter and Marion Stimpson, and Nancy Barrett.

BEHAR - On September 5th, at the Portland Hospital, to Patricia (nee Simons) and David, a son, David Benjamin.

BURTON - On September 1st, to Cheryl and Stephen, a son, Charles Elliot. At the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

CHAPMAN - On September 7th, to Louise (nee Shaw) and Andrew, a daughter, Alexandra Isabelle Shaw.

CLARKE - On Saturday September 1st at 6.00pm at the Portland Hospital, to Helen and Charles, a son, Christopher Charles Henry.

COLEBY - On September 3rd, to Jill and Ian, a son, Jack. A son, a son, a son.

FLANDERS - On September 3rd, to Louise (nee Pugh) and Peter, a son, seven pounds two ounces. A son, a son, a son.

FRANKO - On September 7th, to Peter and Jane, a son, Timothy John. A son, a son, a son.

GIBBS - On September 6th, to St Mary's, Manchester, to Janet (nee Milford) and Jonathan, a son, Thomas David.

GLIMBY - On September 6th, to Sydney, to Deborah (nee Jones) and Alan, a son, Alexander.

HEATH - On August 30th, to Owen (nee Heath) and Susan, a son, Oliver Frederick.

HUGHES - On September 3rd, to the Portland Hospital, to Tony and David, a son, David.

JENNINGS - On September 4th, to Alexandra (nee Williams) and David, a daughter, Rebecca Margaret.

LAWRENCE - On September 3rd, to Clare and Louis, a daughter, Emma Louise.

PETERSON - On September 6th, to David and Jane, a son, David.

ROBINSON - On September 6th, to the J.R. Hospital, Oxford, to Sally (nee Niles) and Andrew, a daughter, Lucy.

SUMNER - On September 1st, to Jane (nee Farnham) and Richard, a son, James.

THOMAS - On September 2nd, to Helen (nee Day) and Kenneth, a son, Edward.

WATKINS - On September 4th, to Lucy (nee Huetten) and Patrick, a daughter, Laura.

WILSON - On September 4th, to the Portland Hospital, to David and Jane, a son, David.

ANNIVERSARIES
ROBERTS - On September 8th, 1990, at the Royal Free Hospital, London. Alice Roberts, nee Green, writer and broadcaster, will be married by her husband, David, at 1.30pm.

DEATHS
ANGELOPOULOS - On September 4th 1990, at the Royal Free Hospital, London. Alice Roberts, nee Green, writer and broadcaster, will be married by her husband, David, at 1.30pm.

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Taste of honey in the city

Bees seem to like the urban life, producing up to 200lb of honey per hive in a season — and they may even be good for rheumatism

Last Tuesday, after the staff of her publishing company had left work, Kyle Cathie donned cotton overalls, long gloves and wellingtons and started extracting the last of the summer's honey from the three hives in the walled garden of her office-home in Westminster.

Mrs Cathie is one of 70 members of the London Bee Keepers' Association, many of whom have reported honey yields of more than 100lb a hive this season and, in wetter years with a better pollen flow, up to 200lb.

Although bees exercise a strange fascination on the popular imagination, most beekeepers are prompted to take up the hobby as part of a fundamental urge to be self-sufficient. In cities the urge to produce one's own food can be potent, and Mrs Cathie's husband had to be firm when she threatened to install chickens in the garage. When her family consumed a whole pound of honey for breakfast she decided instead to keep bees.

As a child in Warwickshire she had often watched the woman who looked after the family hives, and she felt confident she could manage a colony.

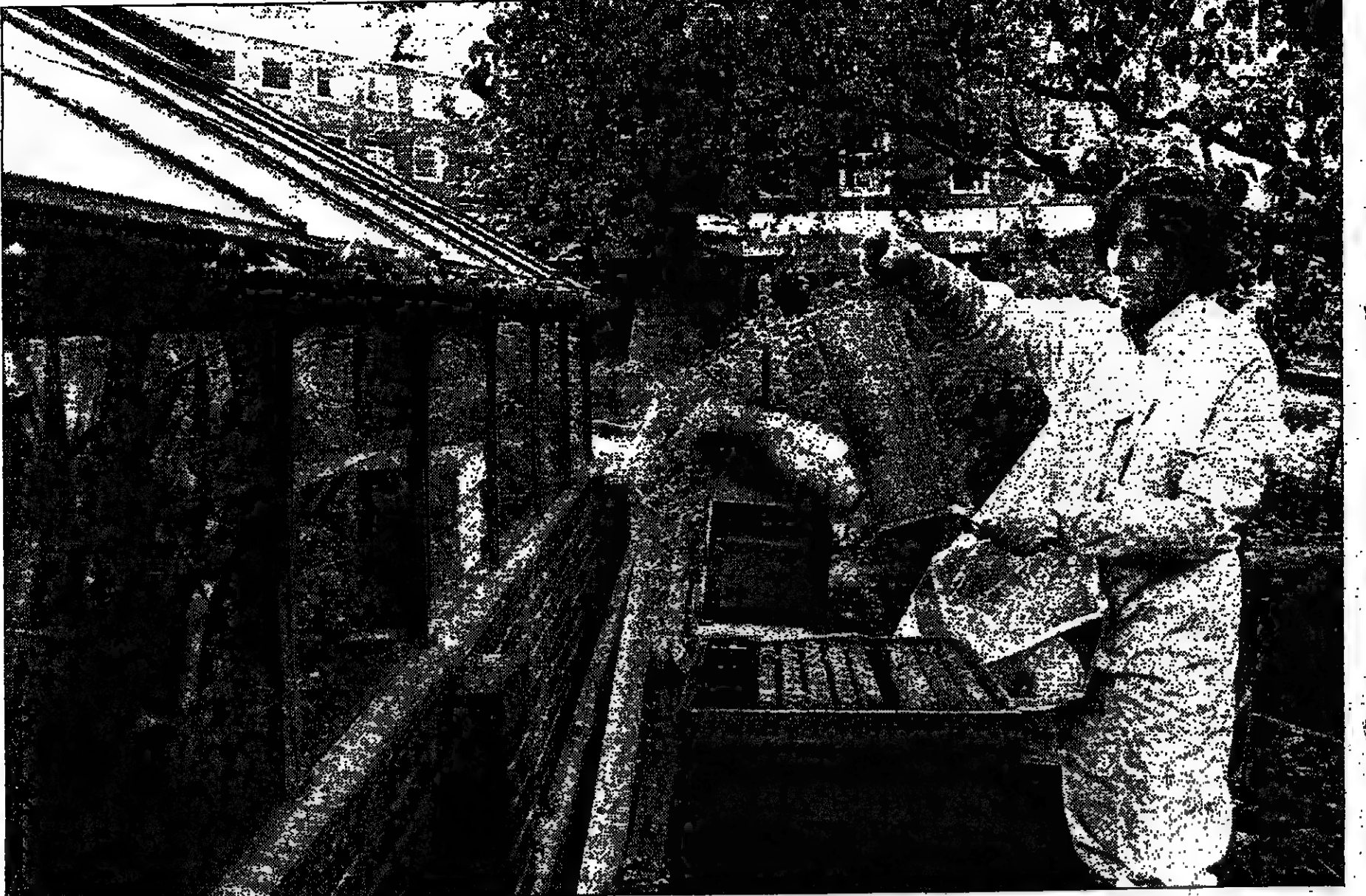
The vacation has not been without its risks — four bee stings

to her head once landed Mrs Cathie in casualty — but there may also be some advantages: the therapeutic effect of bee venom on some types of rheumatism is well researched, and few apiarists suffer serious aches and pains. The fact that most substitute honey for sugar in much of their diet may also be beneficial.

Bill Frearson, aged 80, has kept bees for 48 years in Derby. After the first year, when his arms swelled up like balloons, he found he could sting after ten minutes. A retired Rolls-Royce pattern maker, he once had 18 hives at the bottom of his garden, but now has nine. He says most bees operate within a two-mile radius, but his will fly up to four miles to reach

fields of yellow rape, which produces pure white granulated honey. He regrets this predilection for the plant: the bees no longer produce his favourite "spring" taste of honey from clover or the blossoms of fruit trees.

On a warm day, Mr Frearson likes to sit outside and watch the bees. "My bees are just over the fence, but nobody gets stung," he says. "I soon find out if they are a bit tiddly, and re-queen the colony." As the only fertile female in the hive, the queen is mother of up to 60,000 bees, and her



Getting a buzz from urban self-sufficiency: forbidden by her husband to keep chickens in the garage, Kyle Cathie had to settle for hives at the bottom of her Westminster garden

Domestic bees have been bred to be good-tempered

personality is vital. Good-tempered bees are essential in a built-up area, and knowing how to manage them to prevent swarming is also important.

Ken Taylor, who keeps bees in Plymouth, says: "As soon as the neighbours know that the bees are there, they start getting nervous." But he says most people do not differentiate between the big, furry bumble bee, which does not produce honey, and the small, dark honey bee. Domestic bees have been bred to be good-tempered and, even when they swarm, are not aggressive, although they make a lot of fuss and noise as they seek out a new home.

Ursula Granville has three hives in her garden, not far from Primrose Hill, in north London. But her duties as the secretary of the London Bee Keepers' Association mean she has had to neglect her own hives recently.

"One of our aims is to promote good bee keeping and to assist members to procure a new queen from good stock with an even temper and disposition," she says. "This summer I got caught up in the public relations of bee keeping, and also in going around London collecting swarms." These are passed on to the association's swarm co-ordinator, who has the names of members happy to accommodate them.

But is there enough forage for the bees in an inner city? Mrs Granville says that if you walk along a street you see only bricks and concrete — but look down from a rooftop, and you start to notice the trees, scraps of grass and flowers. Inner-city bees also have one great advantage over their country cousins: however polluted with petrol fumes, their environment is free of killer pesticides.

GERALDINE RANSON



Battle dress: Mrs Cathie, taking no chances with her honey-makers

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

● **Flower Festival:** Indoor floral displays by members of the London and overseas branches of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies of Great Britain. Syon House, Syon Park, Brentford, west London. Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm, £3.25, child £2.75.

● **Chrysanthemums and crafts:** Large craft fair plus local chrysanthemum society fair of early blooms. Gardening demonstrations, stalls. Chapel Manor and gardens, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield, Middlesex. Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm, £2.50, £1.25.

● **Rotten Row bicentenary parade:** More than 1,000 horses in the largest cavalcade of horses and carriages to process up the Mall since the coronation. The Mall, Constitution Hill and Hyde Park, London SW1. Tomorrow from 2pm, free.

● **Art deco fair:** Twenties and Thirties furniture, ceramics, art and decorative items. Greenwich Borough Hall, Royal Hill, London SE10. Tomorrow 10am-5pm, £1.50, accompanied child free.

● **Festival of flowers:** Many rooms decorated with a comprehensive variety of flowers from the walled garden. Croxteth Hall, Liverpool (051 2285311). Today, tomorrow 11am-6pm, 90p, child 45p.

● **Lincoln crafts fair:** Crafts demonstrated and for sale. Children's entertainments. Lincoln Castle, Lincoln. Today, tomorrow from mid-morning.

● **White CBI country festival:** of medieval archery. Competitions in all types of specialist shooting, parades of archers and their supporters. Dover Castle, Dover. Today

10.30am-5pm, tomorrow 11am-4pm, £3, child £1.50.

● **Town and country show:** All manner of country pursuits, plus carous rally, military/vintage vehicles, horticultural show. Norfolk Showground, Norwich, (0603 748931). Tomorrow 9am-6pm, £2.50, child 50p.

● **The Young London open space drama project:** Open-air performance of *Kidnapped* with live music in the new amphitheatre. Wigley pits, Wigley Road, Hounslow, Middlesex (081-588 6487). Today, tomorrow, Sept 15/16, 3.30pm, free. Take rug.

NEXT WEEK

● **Map and print fair:** Items dating from the 16th to 18th centuries. Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London WC1, 9.30am-6pm, free.

● **Indian summer:** Exhibition of textiles, books, toys, art and artefacts, plus batik and beaded jewellery, workshops and Indian cookery demonstrations. Neal Street East, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 0136). Mon to Oct 31.

● **Chelsea antiques fair:** All items pre-1850, vetted for age and authenticity. Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London SW3. Tues to Sept 22: Mon-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat-Sun 11am-6pm. First day only, 11am-2pm (charity preview), £10 thereafter £5 including catalogue.

● **Phillips gets auction:** In aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund's "Reach for the Sky" appeal. RAF Bentley Priory, Starmore, Middlesex. Thurs. Further information and catalogue from Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602).

● **First international Covent Garden festival:** Ten-day extravaganza featuring visual arts, folk music, cooking, fashion and performing arts groups. Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-497 8903). Wed until Sept 22.

● **Autumn flower show:** Many different societies, classes and competitions. Vegetables event includes weighing the world's heaviest onion. Floral displays, pottery and the autumn rose show of the Royal National Rose Society. Exhibition Centre, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Fri 10am-5pm, £4.50 before 4pm then £2.50. Sat 9.30am-5pm, £4. Students £1.75 first day, £1.50 second day, accompanied child under 16 free.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Changing Face: St Wilfrid's church, Brighton

God's house opens to the homeless

ELM Grove is a satisfyingly, seedily typical Brighton street. This is the fish and chip and boarding house Brighton of Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*. Nothing seems to have changed in 50 years. The church of St Wilfrid, half-way up the hill, has been at the centre of a ten-year controversy, ever since it was declared redundant because of falling attendances. Although a new use has at last been found for the building, the controversy refuses to die.

St Wilfrid's, designed in 1932 by H.S. Goodhart-Rendel, is an idiosyncratic grouping of angles and planes in red brick and matching pantries, crowned by a massive, four-square tower with a pitched roof and double windows on either side, 30ft high. The exterior was matched by a lofty, bare brick interior, with internal buttresses punctuated by arched openings. The originality of the conception and, particularly, the quality of the interior space, earned St Wilfrid's a Grade II listing.

However, the idea of the church standing as a splendidly useless shrine, to be visited by the occasional architectural historian, would have been galling to many,

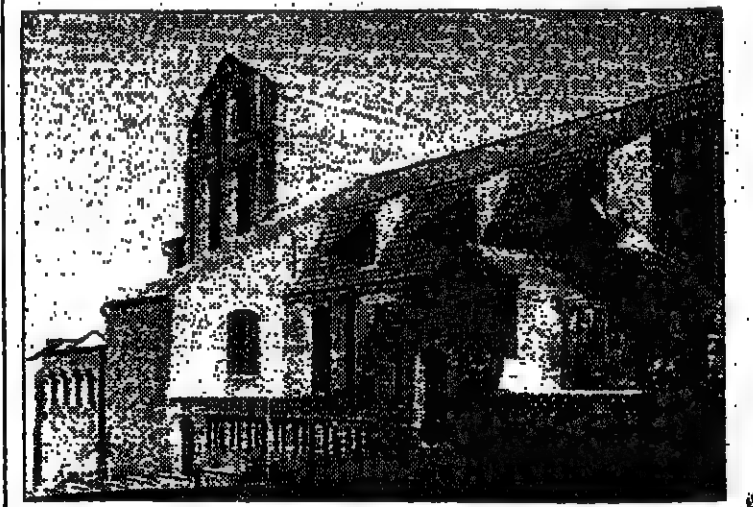
particularly as the architectural style is not generally admired.

After a non-statutory public enquiry called by the owner of the building, the diocese of Chichester (which wanted to demolish it), an application to convert the church into 24 flats for "people in housing need" in Brighton was eventually approved in January 1989. The Chichester Diocesan Housing Association, which had bought the building for £1,508, started work.

The tower and a token strip of side aisle are the only parts of the interior left relatively unscathed by Hunter & Partners, the architect of the conversion. From the outside, the building has not been too severely compromised. Although 18 new windows have been inserted, the work has been done sympathetically. But the lofty interior space has gone forever.

It would be an exaggeration to say that dismay at the church's fate is universal. Against the protestations of the Thirties Society and Save Britain's Heritage at the enquiry has to be set the fact that by next spring some of Brighton's homeless will be living in low-cost housing of enviable quality.

CALLUM MURRAY



New role: St Wilfrid's church in Brighton is being converted into flats

Help: Tim Selman, ecology consultant

A sure touch on the greens

WHICH is the most eco-conscious insect repellent on the market, what are the "greenest" toys for children, and how do you ensure that your personal computer is environmentally as well as user-friendly?

Tim Selman, aged 30, recently appointed to run a "green business service" for Eastleigh borough council, in Hampshire, may not know the answers immediately, but he will do his best to find out. His service has been funded jointly by Eastleigh council and BP, with £44,000 to cover two years' running costs.

A former tree-planter who has a degree in rural environment studies from Wye College, London University, Mr Selman would like to see a national network of "green consultants" like himself, whose services would be available without charge through local councils to private individuals and businesses.

Calls seeking information to Friends of the Earth (FoE) and Sustainability, the producers of *The Green Consumer Guide*, usually produce only exhortations to buy books on the subject. Sustainability does, it is true, run an "environmental auditing" service. But it is costly and intended for use by companies rather than private individuals with green questions.

"We couldn't possibly recommend a product," an FoE spokes-



Tim Selman: environment advice

person said when asked about environmentally friendly insect repellents.

Mr Selman, however, is happy to point people in the right direction. He is the first to admit he does not know all the answers, but he knows where to look for them. He uses other green organisations and contacts as reference material.

"I've got books listing more than 250 private environmental consultants around the country, with 300 pages of environmental agencies," he says. "And I talk to the environmental health departments of other councils."

"I'll try to tackle anything from a £250,000 scheme for dealing with domestic waste to advising someone on the best fridge to buy." Companies, he points out, do

not follow his advice for purely altruistic reasons. "Customers are increasingly turning to companies whose manufacturing processes are environmentally sound," he says.

"Although technically I am here for the people of Eastleigh, I am happy to answer questions from anyone," he says. "We hope the success of this service will lead to councils all over the country creating 'green' officers — not just to advise businesses on how to become more environmentally friendly, but to help private individuals."

He plans to run seminars and disseminate information in Britain and on the Continent. A comfortable, not particularly lurid, shade of green himself, he either rides a bicycle to work or drives his diesel-fuelled car.

He has two children, aged three and one, and is the first to admit that, "although I'd recommend toys made of wood from sustainable forests, rather than those made of plastics, I know that my kids just don't seem to play with the wooden toys. They prefer the plastic ones."

"It's very difficult," he adds, rather disconsolately.

VICTORIA MCKEE

● **Tim Selman, The Green Business Service, c/o Civic Offices, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO5 4XN (0703 614646).**

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SELL IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Monopoly on the Downs

Home from home:
Victoria Wilson

Seven years ago, when Victoria Wilson was still in charge of the Young England nursery — famous to the outside world for having employed Lady Diana Spencer — she spent a family weekend at her parents' home in Sussex, with her husband and two young children. Plans to play tennis were scuppered by rain, and when her father mentioned that the cottages on the nearby estate were up for sale, it seemed worth a look.

"I'd been toying with the idea that it would be lovely to have somewhere down here," she says, "and off we went to this place which looks straight out on the Downs. Even in the wind and the rain I could see it had immense potential. It had belonged to the estate manager and it had been pretty well looked after, although the inside needed changing. We called it the 'non-drinking man's cottage' because the beams came down to the middle of my chest. But by the end of that Sunday evening, our minds were made up."

The cottage was to be sold at auction the following Thursday. "I had to go on my own and I had no idea what to do," Mrs Wilson says. "My husband gave me a ceiling price and I got it. It was incredibly reasonable, as it turned out. Apparently this had been the star attraction but people didn't think they had a chance and so didn't bid. We were really very lucky. And I must say it was tremendously exciting to do it all so quickly — view it on a Sunday, buy it the following Thursday and not an estate agent in sight. I remember being so excited driving back from the auction, I couldn't wait to tell everybody what had happened. It has a lovely atmosphere, very cosy and evocative, too, because my parents lived in a similar house when I was born."

The tiny, high windows in the wall facing the downs were replaced with French windows and a patio was laid outside. The beams which threatened the head of anyone over 4ft 11in were raised. Beyond that, the work was mostly cosmetic.

"We gave the two children, Charles and Camilla (now aged 14 and 11) the largest bedroom and put two bunk beds in it so they could each have a friend to stay; we took the middle-sized room ourselves and left the tiny spare room for visitors," Mrs Wilson says. As it turned out, the bunk beds were rather prophetic and are



Viewed on Sunday, bought on Thursday and never an estate agent in sight: Victoria Wilson and three of her children at their Sussex cottage

now filled by Octavia, aged four, and one-year-old Francesca. Mrs Wilson's husband, Anthony, a financier, works long hours, and on most Friday evenings they set off from their home in Clapham, London, having loaded the car with provisions, a few clothes and the dog, and arrive in Sussex at four and 15 minutes later. Because the cottage is small it takes only an hour to warm or air. The only worry is that with four growing children there soon will not be enough room for them all, and they are considering a low-barn-like extension.

"The last thing we wanted was for the place to become a burden, so we've never made it a rule to go there at weekends, although we usually do. A chap comes in during the week to do the garden and his mother cleans. We usually leave some food down there, but the electricity isn't that reliable and we're always having to throw away stuff in the freezer."

"There is a proper larder,

though, where we can keep some essentials and the rest I bring down. I know I should support the local shops but, quite honestly, I can't face shopping on Saturday mornings, especially now I run a shop myself, so I stock up in a supermarket in London. I don't know why, but food always seems to taste better in the country. I'm not usually thrilled to be bound to the kitchen but somehow I don't mind in the cottage. We have proper country food — meat and vegetables and potatoes, and the children love it."

"I often think it's as if we're playing house there" — Anthony in the garden, me in the kitchen, lots of walks, family games like Monopoly and Cluedo. We have a television, but the children have to come to an agreement

about what to watch, instead of just going off into another room and another television set, as they do in London.

"One of the loveliest things about the cottage is being able to watch the changing seasons, and we get the full force of whatever weather England is having. If there is a gale blowing it's really cosy because the cottage has enormously thick walls, and in the summer it stays cool. In the winter we have supper round the

fire and it's terrific to wake up there on Saturday mornings. My husband cooks breakfast — and is brilliant at it — and we fall into the ritual."

In March, after two decades of running the kindergarten she took over when she was 20, Mrs Wilson opened Young England, a chil-

dren's clothes shop in southwest London with an emphasis on tradition. Barbara Barnes, Prince William's first nanny, is the manageress. "Barbara was my maternity nurse when Francesca was born. I had always longed to set up a children's clothes shop and I was talking to her about it when she said, 'Well, let's do it.'"

Weekends are reserved for family, without the help of the nanny who holds the fort in London. They do without a washing machine by keeping wellies, coats and jumpers there, and ferrying their other clothes back and forth, but the dishwasher is a must — "I simply couldn't bear to wash up all the time."

If the Wilsons socialise, it is either with family or with London friends who also have houses in Sussex. The size of the cottage prevents any large-scale entertaining. "We'd be sitting on each other's knees..."

SUE THOMAS

'I often think it's as if we're playing house there'

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Putting Descartes before the horse

NEXT week I shall harness the horses, drag the plough from the barn and start the long slog of renewing our soil, furrow by furrow. I shall not expect quick results: a fit man, with equally fit horses, should be able to plough one acre a day. He walks 11 miles doing so. It is going to be a long march. But that is next week.

For the moment I am content to lounge in the hay in a newly acquired state of trance, smell the dampness in the wind and reflect on my first six months as a farmer.

It has been a sweat. The learning curve has been precipitous and, in the often intolerable heat of high summer, it has felt as if I have been acting out "Thomas Hardy meets Lawrence of Arabia", with cart-horses instead of camels.

Pigs know how to cope with the heat. Alice, our sow, gets her snout under the water trough, tips it over and then directs her triumphant nose towards the sodden ground. There she digs a hole, and wallows. I watch, and can almost hear her humming: "Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood..." Had the heat continued I would have joined her.

Much sweat has been created by the apparently simple business of moving livestock from place to place. You may recall my lurid accounts of sheep-catching marathons and of desperate struggles to contain wandering heifers. Well, thanks to a reader's letter, I have a new approach. It involves taking deep breaths before attempting to move stock, especially pigs. The result is less pissing afterwards.

The rules have been laid down by a Mrs Mainstone and I feel I should pass them on.

Rule 1 of moving animals, she says, is: never use visitors to help. By and large, I agree. We were lucky in that a soothing and courteous art dealer happened to be passing by when the piglets were last shifted. We cannot expect a person of such natural sensitivity to be around every time.

Rule 2: Use only one local boy or girl, aged eight upwards, whom you know to be obedient, eager, purposeful and calm. I applaud the advice, but following it has been a problem. Children of the generation who got their stimulation from watching *The Flowerpot Men* may have been fine, but the modern *Star Wars* kid only wants to "zap" things. And zapped piglets fly in all directions.

Having got the herd on the move, Mrs Mainstone recom-

mends walking ahead of the sow, banging a galvanised bucket of feed with a stick and crying "tig, tig, tig." Infallible, she claims.

However, I suspect she succeeds not by obeying any of the aforementioned rules but by religiously observing her third piece of advice: "Explain to all concerned that you have in your mind a calm picture of success."

This works, and it has changed my life. I have taught a horse to walk, ungalled, between rows of growing crops by never allowing it to cross my mind that he would not be able to do it. I have even loaded my three wild heifers into the lorry on my own — there was never any question that they would go anywhere else other than up the ramp. It is a sort of hypnotism. The fluency works on turnips, too. Depressed by the heat, they



succumbed to mildew. Conventional farming would have dosed them with fungicide. I merely filled my mind with a "calm picture of success" and did nothing. They withered even more. But then came a shower of rain. Now they are thriving.

And so is the succulent kale. One farmer near here told me that his entire crop had died. He asked what fertiliser I had used and what my spraying programme had been. I told him that I had done nothing at all, except kill the weeds with a horse-drawn hoe.

I was on the point of suggesting he tried a little hypnotism, filling his mind with thoughts of success. But I bit my tongue. It sounded dangerously like recommending that we talk to the flowers... and we know only too well the trouble that can get a man into.

THE real Jack Russell may now stand up. Since the Kennel Club decided at the beginning of the year to recognise the Parson Jack Russell Terrier as a pedigree dog, the club received about 600 foundation registrations before this week's closure date.

The rest, described by Ruth Wilford, secretary of the Parson Jack Russell Terrier Club as "Jack Russells in inverted commas", have been left begging, since there is now a minimum height specification of 13in (measured from the shoulder) for a dog and 12in for a bitch.

At last week's British Veterinary Association Congress in London, Mrs Kay White, an author and lecturer in animal care, weighed in to denounce fox terriers — of which Parson Russells are variants — and Jack Russells as temperamentally "sometimes worse than Rottweilers". Offence having been caused to legions of Parson Russell and Jack Russell owners, the record would seem to need setting straight. "Most people don't know about the original Parson Russells," Mrs Wilford says. As a breeder, she is not above admitting she at first mistakenly gravitated towards tiny "Jack Russells", more accurately

Breeding You're all right, Jack Russell



Type cast: Mrs Wilford's dog, Hamish

described as cross-breed hunt terriers. "That was in about 1959. Later I was getting my dogs out of a van when this old Devonian bluntness asked what I thought they were. When I said 'Jack Russells', he fell about laughing."

The breed owes its existence to the Rev John Russell, vicar of the north Devon parish of Symington for 50 years from 1832, who owned Trump, "the progenitor of that famous race of terriers". Alarm bells were sounded for Parson Russells seven years ago, when breeders detected a scheme to promote a much smaller terrier as a "Jack Russell", with the hoped-for Kennel Club recognition. So the Parson Jack Russell Terrier Club, formed at the beginning of the century but affiliated to the Fox Terrier Club, was hastily reformed and a breed standard drawn up in 1984.

Mrs Wilford says she has never known a vicious Parson Russell, although she counsels against leaving any dog, terrier or otherwise, with a baby. Mrs Wilford says good puppies need cost no more than between £125 and £150. "I would never advise paying more than £200 for an eight-week-old puppy," she says.

SANDY BISP
Further information from the secretary, Parson Jack Russell Terrier Club, Parson House, near Wadborough, Worce W8R 9EJ (0905 821440), and from the Kennel Club, 1 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1Y 8AB.

Sweep a back of the hand delivery



A technique that can turn any birder into a St Francis: pishing, devised in America, looks ridiculous but there is no doubt that it can work

Feather report

PISH 'em up. That is the way to do it. One of life's recurring problems is the small bird in the bush: the sort that hops about and never permits you a clear sight. The bird is selfishly involved in its own affairs, and has absolutely no concern for your problems. This is not to be tolerated.

So you start pishing. To pish, you raise the back of your hand to your mouth and make a series of exaggerated sucks and kisses. If you do this with enough enthusiasm, you will make a series of bizarre noises, rather like those made by Sweep, Sooty's friend.

This is, of course, a hideously embarrassing thing to do, and it takes a person of real self-confidence to perform it in public. But, ludicrously enough, it can actually work. Some birds become so intrigued by these silly noises that they simply have to get a better look at what is going on. They will pop out of the bush and perch in full view, head cocked on one side. They look quizzically at you (understandably enough), but they seem totally unthreatened by the business.

Pishing was invented by American birders and has become part of the armoury of British enthusiasts. One wonders about the first pisher. What on earth persuaded this person to start squeaking at some poor, bewildered bird? However, there is no disputing the fact that it can work. The finest pisher I ever met is a chap called Bob, a fanatic about the birds of Zambia. His facility for charming the birds from the trees had a friend of mine talking about being "on safari with St Francis".

The pleasures of pishing are the involvement with the bird, but there seems to be a very fine line between interaction and interference. Birding is full of deep and dreadful temptations. These sudden lusts for appalling behaviour are not the sort of thing the world will understand, but they have a particular bird.

There is not a birder living who has not disturbed feeding birds, followed them, and disturbed them again. From there it is a

short step to the deliberate flushing of birds from cover. This is not on at all, there are a few birders who will succumb to the temptation to bang a brick at a bird so they can see if it has wing bars.

Pishing is relatively mild stuff. The next step is imitating birds, to make them call back. Here again, Bob is remarkable. I shall not forget his lengthy dialogue with a scimitar-billed wood hoopoe. I have engaged in conversation with a Chinese cuckoo. This, however, is clearly interfering with the bird. Birds call for a reason. The common and imitable calls are likely to be used for contact, or to proclaim territorial rights. If you make a noise like a rival male, the territorial male of the area will be disturbed.

The next step is to carry a tape recorder and to play recorded birdsong at the birds. This can be a staggeringly successful method of attracting a bird. "I'll just call him up," Bob will say, and within minutes the bird of his choice will be virtually sitting on the tape recorder, yelling its head off.

THIS probably does little serious harm in the middle of the Zambian bush where people — let alone people like Bob — hardly exist. But in Britain, calling birds up is considered totally unethical. With the huge number of birders around, it is right that this is so. The thought of woods crawling with birders playing redstart calls through ghetto blasters is hideous.

This is a temptation to which birders really should not succumb. Bob, of course, is not a man much given to resisting temptation. This landed him in jail once. It was a wood owl that did it. The sound of its voice (heard by some observers as, "Now then, whoooo's a naughty boy?") stirred him to action.

I could have told Bob it was unwise. To aim a shotgun mike with parabolic reflector over the fence of a Zambian army camp was not the world's smartest move.

However, it all ended happily enough: nobody could take Bob seriously in the role of international spy.

SIMON BARNES

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

- Shepway Battle of Britain festival:** Week-long programme of events from flower and fashion shows to fireworks and an airshow. Highlights today include motorcycle display by the Flying Gunners, RAF, and army; and tomorrow afternoon, an air display along the seashore. Folkestone and environs, Hampshire. Today until Sept 16. Many events, including airshow, free. Booking: 0313 58594.
- Re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth Field:** The Plantagenet Society relives the battle in which Richard III was killed. Also falconry displays, a medieval archery tournament and pipe band. Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre, Sutton Cheney, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. Tomorrow, 11am-5pm, £2.50, child five to 16 £1.50, under-fives free.
- Inland waterways biennial rally and canal festival:** To celebrate the opening of the Oxford Canal in 1790, some 100 boats are expected at the newly restored boatyard. Stalls, boat builders and hire companies, beer tent. Today only, noon onwards. Morris dancing, folk group, theatre companies. Fireworks from the Thomas Telford Bridge at 8pm. Braunston Marina, B-sunston, near Daventry, Northamptonshire (0788 891373). Today, 10.30am-11pm, tomorrow 10.30am-5pm, £2.
- 17th century village exhibition:** Last opportunity this year to view the full-scale reproduction of a 17th century rural hamlet inhabited by members of

the Gosport Living History Society, costumed and engaged in a variety of craft activities.

Grange Farm, Gosport, Hampshire. Today, tomorrow, £1.50, booking on 0705 522944.

Adventure pursuits festival: Held in the grounds of an early 18th century house. Displays include rough terrain vehicle racing, mountain biking, archery, ballooning, computerised laser games and, on the lake, jet-skiing, windsurfing and canoeing. House and garden open. Deane Park, Corby, Northamptonshire. Today, tomorrow, 9.30am-5.30pm, £2.50, accompanied child under 12 free.

Hop-picking weekend and Maidstone beer festival: See traditional harvesting. Beer festival today only. Coombe Manor Park, Sandling, Maidstone (0222 763838). Today, tomorrow, 10am-8pm, £1.50, child 75p.

Corsham festival: Six-day festival with a children's puppet workshop, artists and craftsmen, open studios throughout the town, musical entertainment, and houses and gardens open to the public. Corsham, various venues, Wiltshire. Today until Sept 15. Further information from festival booking office, 21 Prospect, Corsham.

Woodbridge regatta: Events include skulking, swimming, slippery pole, vintage car display, tug-of-war, stalls and refreshments. Woodbridge, Suffolk, tomorrow from 1pm.

Jazz in the park: Outdoor concert with Acker Bilk, Kenny Ball and Ray Terry.

Clumber Park, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire (0909 476552). Today, 7.30pm, £8.50.

Croquet weekend: The East Anglian Federation tournament final. Refreshments.

March Hare: Near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (0284 488 270). Tomorrow, 10am-4pm, £1.

Craft festival: Wide range of crafts and demonstrations. Fine walks through nature woodland and around lake. Restaurant. Felbrigge Hall, Felbrigge, near Cromer, Norfolk (026375 444). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5.30pm.

March Hare guided walk: Take a packed lunch for this walk which takes in the packhorse road, Pennine Way and fine moorland views. Meet at Marsden station, Marsden Moor, West Yorkshire. Tomorrow, 10am.

NEXT WEEK

- Widcombe fair:** One of Britain's most famous traditional village and agricultural fairs. Widcombe in the Moor, Devon. Tues, all day.
- Farm explorer walks:** See how National Trust properties in Cumbria are managed. Tues, Yew Tree Farm, Conistone. Wed, Stool End Farm, head of Langdale. Both walks begin 2pm, lasting 2-2½ hours, £1, locally signposted.
- 1812 Night:** Concert with the Falklands band of the Parachute Regiment and fireworks. Redoubt Fortress, Royal Parade, Eastbourne (02323 420300). Fri, doors open 7pm, concert 8pm, £3.80, child £3.30.

JUDY FROSHAUG

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Assets

Accessories for la vie en rose

Homesick French expatriates know where to shop for consolation in Britain. With a little guidance, Francophiles can join in: check the time on your Cartier watch, lie back on the Le Corbusier chaise longue with a Duralux tumbler of Perrier, turn that Piaf record a little louder, et vive la France...

It is said that Chanel No 5 was the only thing Marilyn Monroe ever wore in bed. Coco Chanel presented the perfume to the world in 1921. The bottle, designed by the French artist, Sem, was exhibited in New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1959, and has never altered. Today the world's favourite fragrance costs from £35 for 7ml of perfume and £26 for 5ml of eau de parfum, from leading department stores.

Babar, the elephant, is one of France's most endearing cartoon characters. Created in 1931 by Jean de Brunhoff, the painter, and developed by Laurent, his son, King Babar appears in almost 40 books. Best Babar source to date is the Courant Shop, which has a painted, wooden Babar pull-along car (£15.95). Babar in a plane (£18.50), Babar in a pram (£14.94), Babar musical box (£32), and Babar and friends egg cups (£11.50 each). The Courant Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-589 7401).

Every crepe sizzle pan has a silver lining at the French Kitchen Shop, where wooden-handled 2mm copper crepe pans cost £37.88 (8in), £47.61 (10in), £53.72 (12in).

The French Kitchen Shop, 42 Westbourne Grove, London W2 (071-221 2112).

What could be more covetable than a classic, pedalled Chanel bag with gilt chain? The first Chanel bags, designed in the Thirties, were made in tweed. Today's versions, designed by Karl Lagerfeld, are quilted and individually hand-finished. Available in three sizes in leather, crocodile, ostrich, satin or jersey, they cost between £415 and £1,000.

Chanel, 36 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 5040) and 31 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 0631).

Antique French champagne glasses, dated around 1860, cost £350 for a set of five at Richard Kihl. Silver-plated tastevin (wine tasters) range in price from £19.50 to £45, while contemporary La Rochère glasses cost £5 for a white wine glass, £7.50 for a red wine glass and £9.50 for a very large burgundy glass.

Richard Kihl (Wine Accessories), 104 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 (071-560 3538).

Provisions such as honey, jam, oils, herbs and mustard, all imported from Fauchon, the famous Parisian foodstore, are stocked at Savours de Paris. Jeroboams offers 120

varieties of French cheese for le pique-nique, and the Elizabeth Street branch also sells charcuterie.

Savours de Paris, 6 Heath Street, London NW3 (071-431 0976); Jeroboams, 34 Bute Street, London SW7 (071-225 2232) and 51 Elizabeth Street, London SW1 (071-823 5623).

French cafe-style lighting is available in six sizes of spherical globe at Christopher Wray's Lighting Emporium. Prices range from £5.50 to £37.50.

Christopher Wray's Lighting Emporium, 600 King's Road, London SW6 2DX (071-736 8434).

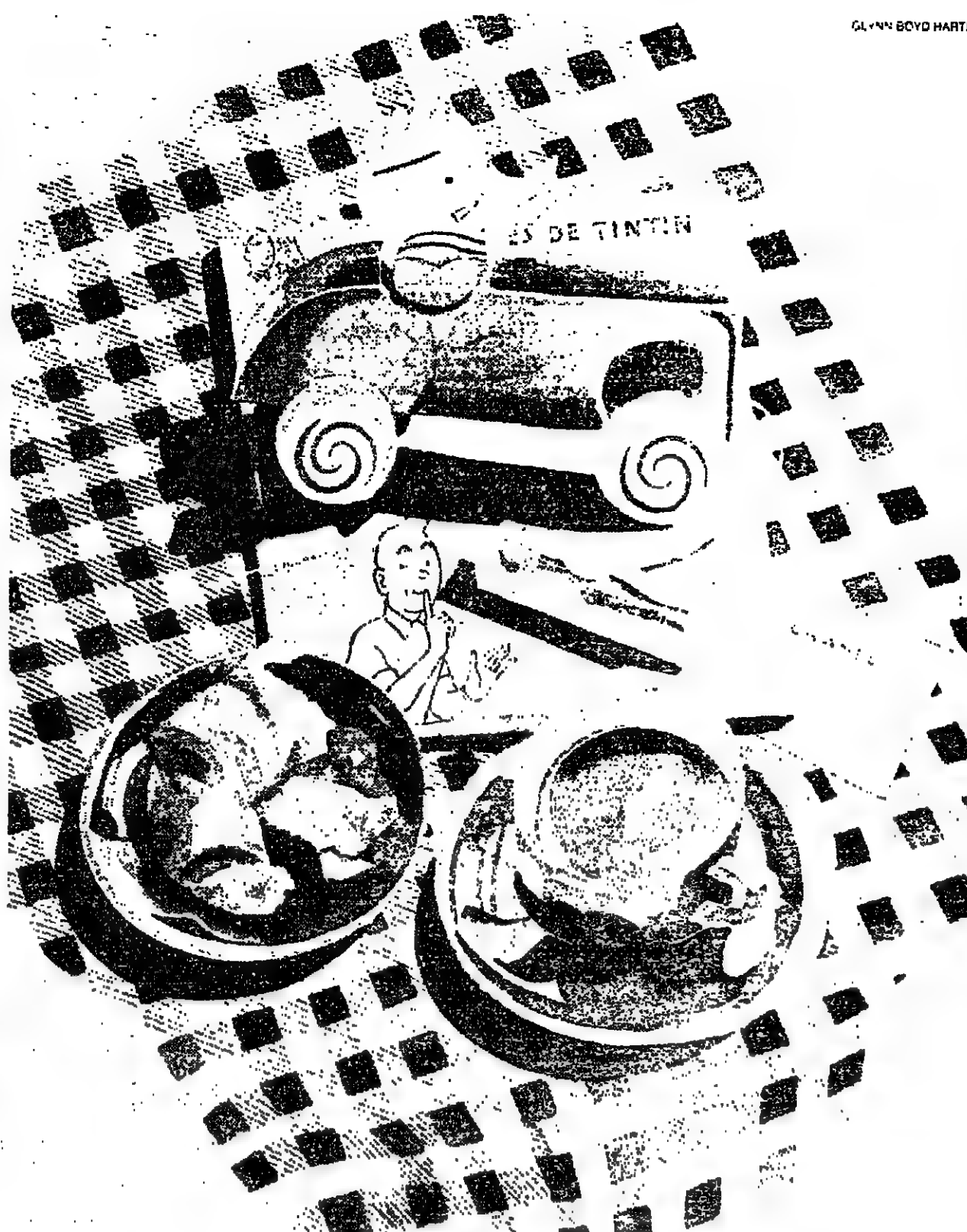
Tintin and Asterix are the best-loved characters in French comic art. La Page stocks these and 1,500 other examples of the genre along with classic French literature. Hardback French versions of Tintin and Asterix cost £4.95; softback English translations, £2.95. The shop also has a wide selection of French stationery.

La Page, 7 Harrington Road, London SW7 (071-589 5991).

Le pique-nique may well benefit from the addition of the Auvergne shepherd's knife, unchanged for 175 years, with a handle made from the horn of local Aubrac cattle and a long steel blade which folds into the handle. Available by mail order in two sizes: single blade, £27, or three-piece, £42.50 (inc p&p), in black, white or horn finish.

From Max Pike's Bathroom shop, 4 Eccleston Street, London SW1 (071-730 7216).

A La Corne stove is the stamp of a serious cook. The stoves are made in France to purchasers' specifications in a choice of steel, white, black or coloured: vitreous enamel, nickel plate, or traditional French floral pattern, with chrome, nickel or brass trims. Ovens and burners are gas or



French lessons: coffee from a green cap, a croissant opened with your Auvergne shepherd's knife, Chanel, Tintin and Babar

The latest chair from Philippe Starck, enfant terrible of the design world, is an exercise in colourful plastic. It has a polypropylene seat and front legs, with a tubular steel back rest and rear legs. It is made by Kartell, the Italian plastics specialists, and comes in a choice of black, grey, coral,

meat and vegetables in Boucherie Lamartine, the authentic French deli. Selections of prepared food from the Roux Brothers range from terrines and Coquilles St Jacques to patés and cassoulets. Boucherie Lamartine, 229 Ebury Street, London SW1 (071-730 4175).

Lounge in style with the help of the Thirties classic chaise longue in chrome and black leather by Le Corbusier, the adopted Frenchman. Nineties re-editions of the original, imported from Italy by SCP, cost £995. Authentic, 42 Shelton Street, London WC2 (071-240 9845).

Striped, long-sleeved Bretons — traditional French fishermen's work-shirts — are made in France by Guy Cotten and are available in blue/white, navy/white, red/white or navy/cream stripes (£19.95).

Cuplain (A.M. Watts), 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (071-493 4633).

Rustic terracotta floor tiles bring provincial France to British homes. Creamy pink reclaimed terracotta, from under the eaves of French barns, salvaged and restored, can be bought at Paris Ceramics from £65 per square yard.

Paris Ceramics, Unit 4, Mercury Works, Leyfield Road, London W12 (081-746 2240).

Chunky traditional dark green Agilco china cries out for black, bitter coffee with hot milk, foamed, French café style, with a steamer. Big breakfast cup with saucer, £9.85; croissant plate, £6.85.

Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-636 1666), and Tansyae, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3QU (0483 576715).

Traditional wholemeal pain poilâne (£4.80) is stocked along with a variety of French bread, French cuts of

French provisions such as oils, herbs and jam are imported from Fauchon in Paris

electric and there are optional warming drawers, simmering plates, cast iron hot griddle plates, deep fryers and bar-becue grills. Prices range from £1,488 for a basic stove to £6,000 for the most sophisticated stoves.

La Corne Gallery, 50 Westbourne Grove, London W2 (071-792 0991).

Les Senteurs stocks a wide range of perfumes and skincare products by Annick Goutal of Paris, one of the few female perfumers in the world. Her unusual perfumes are composed of the finest natural essences and are packaged luxuriously in gold and cream.

Les Senteurs, 227 Ebury Street, London SW1W 8UT (071-730 2322).

Originals: Wendy Ramshaw, jeweller

A geometrical progression

WENDY Ramshaw likes to think "that on any one day women in various parts of the world are putting on my jewellery, and that it is giving them pleasure".

Ms Ramshaw has been at the forefront of jewellery design for more than 20 years, and has inspired and intrigued her customers with distinctive pieces in a variety of materials, including paper and plastics, glass, ceramics and bird feathers, gold, platinum and precious stones.

"I'm interested in all the visual arts, which keep pushing me in one direction and then another," she says. "When I work with a new material I look for its own special qualities and then think what you can do with it to allow these qualities to come through."

Concentric circles, spirals, long, thin lines and sharply pointed cones characterise Ms Ramshaw's work. "Geometry is a universal language," she says. "These shapes have a lasting nature. They are nothing at all to do with fashion."

She was born in Sunderland and often visited the town's museum, where relics of ship-building — propellers, reflectors from the lighthouse — fired her imagination.

Later, she studied illustration and fabric design in Newcastle upon Tyne. In the Sixties, she began experimenting with spray paint on Perspex. A small commercial venture followed, set up with David Watkins, her husband,



Circle line: Wendy Ramshaw works on her 'lasting shapes'

at that time a jazz musician and now the professor of jewellery and metalwork at the Royal College of Art. Their firm, Optik Art, specialised in screen-printed, black and white geometric designs which sold to dozens of boutiques and chain stores. Success led to the founding of a new company, Something Special, which manufactured fashion jewellery, including wooden

are now in the Victoria & Albert museum. Ms Ramshaw then turned her skills to the creation of precious jewellery, winning numerous awards. Many of her designs are very large — rings which cover half the hand or ruff-sized necklaces. Yet despite its size, the jewellery is surprisingly light and comfortable to wear.

Several themes recur. The concept of a set of individual rings, which can be worn together in various combinations, separately or in small groups, is echoed by pairs of earrings whose parts can be rearranged.

AN EXHIBITION covering Ms Ramshaw's work from 1965 to 1990 has opened in the Festival Hall's main foyer. This contains six new pieces which Ms Ramshaw has designed for herself — a luxury she rarely allows. These range from the complexity of an earring in 16 sections to the simplicity of a necklace comprising individual hoops of silver, brass, copper and nickel alloy.

Also on show is the latest of the Picasso's Ladies collection — a series of jewellery designed by Ms Ramshaw which the portrait subjects could have worn at the sitting. As with all her pieces, these have a further life, when not worn, as free-standing sculptures.

N.S.

Wendy Ramshaw Jewellery: From Paper to Gold is at the Festival Hall until October 7.

Sweet smell of rising prices

From classic to art nouveau, the market in posy holders is blooming

LONG after posies of sweet-smelling flowers and herbs had been carried in the hope of warding off the plague, it became fashionable for ladies to wear or carry nosegays of fresh flowers.

The ingenuity of the 19th century was boundless, and during its second half the posy holder evolved, enabling flowers to be kept moist and fresh without dresses being spoilt.

The holders are often made of silver, or silver gilt filigree, and may incorporate glass containers. Other precious and semi-precious materials were pressed into decorative service including enamel, porcelain, coral and mother-of-pearl, seed pearls and beads of turquoise or paste. British examples were often made in Birmingham, but because the silver was not always of a high standard and was often too fragile to stand testing, comparatively few are hallmarked. Others were made in Vienna, and in the United States where they were known as "tussie-mussies", tussie being an old word for nosegay, and musie probably a nonce word referring to the moss used in some of them for retaining moisture.

There are two or three basic shapes — the cornet, the cornucopia and the umbrella — which were related but were infinitely variable. There was generally a carrying handle or slim stem which would hold the stalks and might end in a curve or loop. Then there might be a pin on a delicate chain which would either secure the flowers in the holder or serve as an attachment to the dress, and there was sometimes another thin chain ending with a finger ring. This enabled an owner to

dance with the holder swinging free.

Obviously such things could not be put down conveniently and a type was developed in which the handle was made of three sprung legs which folded out to form a stand. The usual length for a posy holder is between 4in and 6in, but smaller versions were made for little girls.

As one would expect of the



Blooming: 1868 posy holder (£350-£450)

Victorians, styles are thoroughly mixed. There are simple, neo-classical cornets and renaissance and baroque revivals, the latter often incorporating pearls, swirling art nouveau leaves and tendrils.

Five years ago, holders of the better type were selling for between £100 and £140. Earlier this summer an elaborate Gothic holder with a cornucopia-like shape sold for £605 at Christie's South Kensington, and a number of others went for between £300 and £550. No doubt in another five years collectors will be saying: "If only I'd bought in 1990..."

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

Return of the reluctant maestro

Sir Colin Davis, back at Covent Garden, detests charisma and has no interest in power. Profile by Richard Morrison

When Sir Colin Davis enters the Covent Garden pit on Monday to open the Royal Opera's new season with *Turandot*, he will be back where some people think he should always have been: right at the centre of British musical life. Strangely, his career record says that this is exactly where he has been. He was music director of Sadler's Wells Opera, chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, then for 15 years music director of the Royal Opera.

Yet the British musical establishment still regards Davis as a peripheral figure. He is an outsider, uncomfortable with the "culture club" that runs London's arts, and downright intolerant of the charisma industry surrounding top conductors.

Nobody doubts his profound musicianship—nobody except, perhaps, those who think that a great performance should be like a great breakfast cereal, and go snap, crackle and pop with every mouthful. He made his name by conducting Mozart like an angel (significantly, his big break came when deputising for Klempner in *Don Giovanni* in 1959). Then came his famous championing of Berlioz, his bold forays into Wagner, his oddly paced but deeply considered Beethoven, his pioneering of Tippett, his revival of Sibelius... the list goes on.

And with each triumph, his reputation abroad soared. He was the first Englishman to conduct at Bayreuth. Reliable sources say he was offered the conductorships of the Boston Symphony Orchestra before Ozawa, the Cleveland Orchestra before Dohnányi and, most recently, the New York Philharmonic before Masur. He declined them all: too glamorous. Instead, he conducts an orchestra with a much lower international profile: the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in Munich. Under Davis's direction, it has become one of Europe's finest.

So why does Davis's reputation seem less secure in his own country? Early on, familiarity may have bred disdain if not contempt. Weiridge-born Colin Davis was a very ordinary character; he played in the Household Cavalry band during his National Service

then just about survived as a freelance player in the mid-1950s. When he did get conducting breaks, former colleagues did not always respect his new status.

"Colin obviously wanted to do things in a very friendly way," says one. "It didn't work. Big-time conductors cannot be comradely with players. And when he succeeded Solti at Covent Garden, his Englishness was a handicap. Someone who shouts in a foreign accent always gets served quicker in a shop."

Davis still refuses to play the dictator. "I detest all that charisma stuff. It leads to unmusical things like the pursuit of power. The older I get, the more wary I am of power. It is a beastly ingredient in our society."

"If the players respect you as a musician, there's no need to pursue power unless you want to build an empire. One has known instances of conductors doing that, of course. I have been criticised all my life for my attitude to this. But the real test is: am I still here? Since I am, it suggests I am dealing with orchestras in a way they accept."

But his rehearsal methods—courteous but often intensely searching and laced with philosophy—do seem to work better on German and American players than on their more prosaic British counterparts. "Wherever possible, he reaches out for a religious aspect to the music," says one violinist. "Some players don't always reach out with him."

Nor do many British musicians share Davis's taste for metaphysical reading matter: Hermann Hesse, Hermann Broch, Nikos Kazantzakis. These were the authors, Davis says, which helped him stabilise his life in the mid-1960s, when his first marriage ended and he went through a spiritual and professional crisis.

Is he upset if players do not share his musical vision? "I don't expect them to. I only hope they share it while they are playing—or if not, do what is necessary to lay out the work. Musicians are often criticised for being anti-intellectual, and I'm sure we are. But that is because we have to live on our senses. We must react so fast—too fast for thought. The musician has to be like a small animal, con-



Back in the limelight: "Opera conducting is about learning to get on with all sorts of people, how to keep a big apparatus together."

stantly relying on nerve-ends and lightning reflexes."

Davis's dealings with British musicians may have been prickly at times, but his relationship with managements and the Press has been equally difficult. His Covent Garden tenure began with boos—for the asinine reason that he was not Solti—and ended the same way, because Davis typically chose to go out in 1986 with a *Fidelio* of vintage weirdness: Andrea Serban's "angels on stilts" staging. Davis's early planning at the Garden, moreover, was effectively torpedoed by Sir Peter Hall's abrupt departure from the vital director of productions post.

Yet Davis conducted a trium-

phantly provocative *Ring* and a dozen other classic productions in his Royal Opera era. How does he now regard that period? "Well, it's very difficult when you are working in any organisation with board members who don't necessarily know anything about music, even if they 'like music'. There is a great gulf between the layman who enjoys music and the rather boring, fanatical musician who lives and breathes music. But you know, it never came to terrible upheavals. In any case, it is probably true that tension is a necessary function of creativity."

Davis believes that the opera-

house years were vital to his development. "Opera conducting is about learning how to get on with all sorts of people, how to keep a big apparatus together. That is the way the older generation did it. They emerged from the opera house seasoned and crusty, and then they began to conduct symphonies! These days, it seems back to front. The fact that I did it the old-fashioned way may have had some bearing on my being accepted in Germany."

His German connection

stretches also to the venerable Dresden Staatskapelle. "I'm as vain as the next man; it gives me a certain gratification that the strongholds of music tradition are prepared to work with me. Dresden, Vienna, Munich: they have fine orchestras, better conditions than we have, and a wonderful attitude to music-making."

For a great musician who is

Clearly a fine reading

PROMS

Cleveland/Dohnányi
Albert Hall/Radio 3

THIS second Cleveland Prom was again distinguished by the cool fineness and clarity of the playing. The orchestra's lucidity in Schoenberg's Piano Concerto brought out, and perhaps even exaggerated, the gracefulness of this late score, with delicate blendings and a serene, airy poise, producing a surface confidence that skipped over harmonic troubles and controlled the viciousness that breaks out in the middle of the piece.

The solos could have said more, but perhaps the players were daunted by having to deliver a score of chamber orchestra intimacy in this hall. Mitsuko Uchida overcame this by drawing one's ears almost inside the piano through her intense thoughtfulness. She offered Schoenberg as successor to Mozart rather than to Brahms or Liszt: a subtle, nimble and occasionally playful cascade of notes, not masking or unmasking an essential seriousness. There was no rhetoric here: the big gestures were as carefully considered and projected as the rest, and the virtuosity was one of insight and devotion.

Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, as might have been predicted, lost rather more than the Schoenberg did from Christoph von Dohnányi's crispness and speed. There were moments that came off wonderfully, like the march towards the climax of the slow movement, with violin figures rushing about as if trying to escape at each step from an implacable progress. But this work ought to be more than a chain of more or less remarkable episodes. It also found the orchestra's superbness beginning to falter.

The late concert afterwards, given by the BBC Singers under John Poole, was a disappointment. Frank Martin's Mass is an early piece whose life should be in church; Alfred Schnittke's Requiem turned out to be one of his gruesome, self-destructive journeys into musical horror, banality and tackiness. Rather as in the Bruckner, although much more rarely, there were moments of wonder, such as the soft, cloudy chord on "sempernam" in the Agnus Dei. But Schnittke's general willingness here to be robustly dreadful is hard to take in the appropriate ironic spirit.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Still kept apart by the anger

THEATRE
My Children,
My Africa
Lyttelton

THERE is a widespread feeling, in and out of that benighted country, that the prospects for South Africa are getting brighter. Is not the ANC renouncing violence, the National Party opening its ranks to blacks, and apartheid disappearing? Well, a main purpose of Athol Fugard's latest play is to shatter precipitate optimism. The anger in those townships is too deep, the alienation of the young too extreme. Necklacing is still higher on the political agenda than reconciliation.

The play begins hopefully. Lisa Fugard's Isabel, who is white, young and liberal, is in a black school debating women's lib with its star pupil, Rapulana Seiphemo's Thami. So successful is the visit that the local Mr Chips, John Kani's "Mr M", persuades them jointly to enter a nationwide quiz. What could be more healing, more symptomatic of the "new" South Africa?

The rest of the evening is a dramatic debate involving these three characters. In dialogue and monologue they reveal their backgrounds, beliefs, hopes and fears, becoming a bit repetitive in the process. Fugard himself directs us using a set too stark to distract us for a moment from his words. Many in the audience must have wished that his creative kit contained secateurs, for trimming his earnest outpourings.

Yet it is not just for his punditry that Fugard is regarded as his country's greatest dramatist. The bonds between his characters turn

out to be perilously fragile. Thami feels, then openly rebels, against Mr M's traditionalism, distancing himself from Isabel as he does so. Soon the schoolmaster is alone, doggedly ringing his bell in defiance of a classroom boycott that evolves into a riot. Fugard's debate becomes increasingly immediate and, by the end, vastly less abstract.

Throughout, he seems commendably determined less to judge his characters, more to allow them emphatically to express their own points of view. In Lisa Fugard's bubbling performance, Isabel's determination to crash the race barriers, and open herself to what is on the other side, is almost too apparent.

Nor does the admirable Seiphemo let us doubt the conscientious passion of Thami's renunciation of the schoolroom for the education of the guerrilla camp. We are not allowed to reject Mr M because he does the

unforgivable, and lets principled contempt for student militancy turn him into an informer.

Yet there is a problem here that remains unresolved by Fugard's text or by the odd mixture of vanity and enthusiasm, primness and glee that Kani brings to the role of Mr M. He claims to be opening African minds, building official curriculum; but it is Jane Austen, Dickens and the Lake poets who seem principally to absorb him and his pupils. Yet to Fugard he is not a hypocrite but a hero, "a beautiful human being", the victim of circumstances.

If this is confusing, however, the final thrust of Fugard's play is not. In South Africa it is not only the good and bad who are in conflict. The good, better and best are sometimes hopelessly divided from each other. The nation's progress, it seems, has far to go.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Rapulana Seiphemo as Thami and Lisa Fugard as Isabel

rioting against the presence of aliens, who are undercutting their prices and making off with their women. Clearly, such things had not changed, since More's day, since Munday's first draft coincided with another uprising of citizens voicing the same grievance. Originally French, the nationality of the aliens had to be changed to Lombards, and Shakespeare was brought in to alter the tone of More's speeches.

The first scenes show More coming to the attention of the king. He is merry, befriends the poor, plays tricks on colleagues, and is not above stepping into the performance of a play within the play, enacting the role of Good Counsel and rhyming "hither" and "with her", unusually daring for the time.

Set against a soaring brick wall of realistically rough surfaces (designer: Emma Ryott), Michael Walling's direction marshals his mob cleverly, exploits the different stage levels and animates the speeches with neatly pointed detail. The balance of voices

against riot noise, however, is not as successful.

Ken Bones gives an intelligent, likeable performance as More, vocally wide-ranging with a mellow vibrato when his arguments reach their peroration. He also makes as good a job as possible of More's fall, his drily witty voice revealing resolution, and a touch of fear, as he mounts the scaffold.

But the authors dared not mention the reason for More's resistance to the king, because Ann Boleyn was Queen Elizabeth's mother. It is as though *Hamlet* were edited to omit Gertrude's marriage. Watching characters stepping over this gaping hole has its curiosity value, but true drama vanishes.

All credit, however, to Walling's Stage One company for resurrecting a famously neglected work. Paul Aves, John Pine and Tim Hudson, Martin Head and Andrew Melville give life to more than a score of nobles, citizens and horrid aliens.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MONTREAL FILM FESTIVAL

Actresses excel on the world screen

A film about teenagers with cancer, spending what may be their last summer at camp together, does not sound like a crowd-pleaser. That was the story of *Princes in Exile*, a film by Canadian director Giles Walker, one of many surprises at the Montreal Film Festival. One of three Canadian films to win awards at the festival (with *Imaginary Tale* and *Blizzard*), it earned Joe Wiesenthal the best screenplay award.

The Montreal Festival, the only Grade A film festival in North America, screens a wide range of films from all over the world. Among the 250 shown were special sections on Chinese and Latin American cinema and a third featuring banned films from Eastern Europe.

Many films receive their North American premiere here; which, for Europeans, means a chance to see again films already screened at Cannes or at one of the other European festivals. Other films have been around for some time—such as *Ballad of the Yellow River*, for which Teng Wenji received the best director award.

The festival also shows dozens of world premieres. This is *No Way to Live*, a Russian documentary tracing the development of the Soviet social system, won the festival award for director Stanislav Govoroukhin. Also included were Phil Joanou's *State of Grace* (with Sean Penn and Gary Oldman) and Tachella's *Dames Galantes*, about a womanising provincial gentleman in 16th-century Europe.

The best actor award was shared by Marcel Lehoucq, a popular Canadian entertainer for his performance in *Rafales*, and Andres Pajares for his role in Carlos Saura's Spanish Civil War comedy, *Ay Carmela!* Neither actor gave a striking performance. Indeed, *Ay Carmela!* featured a stronger performance from Carmen Maura as Carmela.

In many ways, it was a festival of actresses, with many excelling in strong leading roles. Vying for the best actress award were Claudia Cardinale as the mother of a heroin addict in Pasquale Squitieri's poignant film, *Uto Di Dolore*, and Katharina Thalbach in the German thriller, *The Eighth Day* (rather as if *The Boys From Brazil* met the New German Cinema). But the winner was Natalia Goundareva for her role in Leonid Menaker's *Dog's Feast*.

The critics chose *Landscape with a Woman* as the best film (it also won a special grand jury prize). The sole directorial project by Ivica Matić, only completed several years after his death in 1976, this stunning work is a homage to naive painting, viewing peasant life with a narrative style

as simple as the paintings which inspired it.

From a disappointing list of films in the official competition (Britain's entry, David Leland's *The Big Man*, was rumoured to be too violent for some of the judges) the winner of the Best Film Award, a popular choice, was a Spanish-Peruvian co-production, *Fallen From Heaven*, directed by Francesco Lombardi, which entwined three separate stories into a stark study of Peruvian society.

There were other delights in and out of the competition. *Don Juan My Dear Ghost* by the Spanish director Antonio Mercero is a resolutely commercial film that had the entire audience bursting into applause within seconds of the opening credits—which were sung rather than written. The story is about Don Juan returning to earth to atone for his sins, and becoming embroiled with a theatre troupe performing a play about his life. The comedy is broad—bumbling cops, mistaken identity, punctured vanity: a cross between the Pink Panther and Feydau.

Out of competition, *Templing the Devil*, by Montenegrin director Zivko Nikolic also had its knock-about moments but was a more complex work. Assured storytelling about family feuds in a remote village in Montenegro led to funny and touching moments but the film suffered from the unlikely behaviour of its central character, a local boy who returns to his village after 30 years in America but disguises his identity.

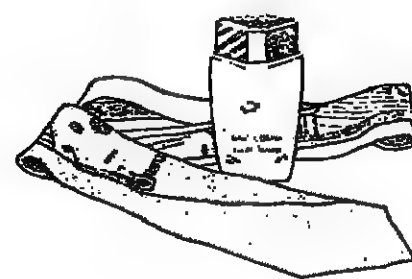
Personal and political merged in the Portuguese film *The King's Trial*. The story of the intrigue surrounding the attempts to dethrone King Alfonso of Portugal on the grounds that he did not consummate his marriage, the film is sumptuously photographed and the narrative proceeds in a stately and solemn way. Director Joao Mario Grilo, who teaches film history at Lisbon's new university, should have a bit on his hands.

The American competition entry was Jon Jost's magnificent *All the Vermeers in New York*. The Seventies avant-gardist uses wonderful images and a moody jazz score to chart the story of Anne, an actress, and a Wall Street broker who takes refuge from New York life in observing Vermeer's paintings.

Finally, *End is Sleeping*, an American film by British director Maurice Phillips, has all the makings of a cult comedy success. Elizabeth Perkins and the under-rated Jude Reinhold try to dump the murdered body of his wife (her sister); it is *Blood Simple* played for laughs.

PETER GUTTRIDGE

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SATURDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Introduction to Pure Maths: Shapes of Flows 7.05 The View from Daisies

7.30 Playdays: Educational fun for pre-school children (1) 7.50 The Muppet Babies: Animated adventures of the infant Muppets (1)

8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester: Children's entertainment presented by Charlotte Hendle and Ross King. The team finds out what happens when the police, fire brigade or ambulance services respond to a 999 call, and Ross talks to Linda Layton and Janet Kay of Beasts International 10.55 Bunyip: Cartoon series

11.00 Film: Flipper (1963) starring Chuck Connors, Luke Halpin and Kathleen McGuire. Wholesome family tale of Sandy, a fisherman's young son, who helps an injured dolphin he finds near his home in the Florida Keys and the pair become firm friends. But the family business is in serious trouble, so Sandy knows he will find it hard to convince his father to help Flipper. Directed by James B. Clark (Ceebox) 12.27 Weather

12.30 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35 Football: England manager Graham Taylor talks to John Motson about his plans for the international season; 12.50 Athletics: action from the Athens grand prix; 1.05 News; 1.10, 2.20 and 3.05 Golf: coverage of the third round of the Panasonic European Open from Sunningdale; 1.40, 2.10 and 2.40 Racing from Haydock Park and the Curragh; the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races from Haydock and the 3.00 from the Curragh; 1.50 Motor Racing: the Birmingham supercar, the tenth round of the Esso British touring cars championship; 4.00 Final Score

5.00 News with Moira Stuart. Weather

5.10 Regional News and Sport. Wales: 5.10-6.00 Wales on Saturday

5.15 Neighbours 1,000th Episode Celebration. A special programme to mark the 1,000th episode of the bewilderingly successful Australian soap which will be screened on Thursday. (Ceebox)

6.00 The Noel Edmonds Saturday Roadshow. Noel Edmonds finds himself in an enviable position when the Roadshow visits the vaults of the Bank of England

8.45 Every Second Counts. Paul Daniels returns with a new series of the game show

7.20 Robin Hood. With Lisa Maxwell and Bella Emberg in support, the Tommy Cooperish funniness crashes his way through another raft of sketches and revives long-running characters such as CJ Jimmy and Basil and Bond (Ceebox)

7.50 All Creatures Great and Small: Knowin' How To Do It. Christopher Timothy and Robert Hardy star in the enjoyable Yorkshire vet saga based on the James Herriot novels. (Ceebox)

8.40 In Sickness and in Health. Raunchy comedy featuring the biggest West Ham supporter, Alf Garnett. Alf is surprisingly ungrateful when Mrs. Hollingberry takes a job in order to pay for their wedding, and the longer he contemplates his situation, the less reason he sees to continue with life. With Warren Mitchell and Carmel McSharry. (Ceebox)

9.10 News with Michael Barker. Sport and weather

9.30 Film: High Plains Drifter (1972). © CHOICE: It is easy to see *High Plains Drifter* as a simple recycling of the spaghetti westerns which had rescued Clint Eastwood's career from the anonymity of his early Hollywood period. Here is Eastwood the director putting Eastwood the actor through a familiar routine. Here again is the



Self-parodying: Clint Eastwood (9.30pm)

laconic, mysterious stranger with no name and little dialogue, riding into town and viciously doing what a man's gotta do. But in recycling on the basic elements of *A Fistful of Dollars* and the rest, with just a hint of self-parody, Eastwood was doing more than appropriating a plot and an edgy, baroque style. He was offering a contemporary American treatment of the western myth, in which the old certainties had gone and distinctions between good and bad, right and wrong were no longer sustainable. Not for nothing is the town renamed Hell. (Ceebox)

11.10 Rory Bremner. Rory Bremner displays his impressionistic talents (1)

11.40 Film: Rehearsal for Murder (1984) starring Robert Preston, Lynn Redgrave and Jeff Goldblum. A compelling made-for-television thriller in which playwright Alex Cavanaugh invites a group of actors to a reading of his latest play, hiding the fact that the occasion is not simply an audition, but an attempt to discover who killed his fiancée, a death the police treated as suicide. Directed by David Greene 1.15am Westview

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am

9.25 Motormouth 3: The first of a new series of the children's entertainment show. Among the guests are Adam and Caron Wheeler of Soul II Soul. There is also a look behind the scenes at the making of the serial *The New Adventures of Black Beauty*

11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video not features Los Lobos

12.30 Huckleberry Finn and his Friends. Ian Tracey and Sammy Smythers star as Mark Twain's troublesome twosome growing up on the banks of the Mississippi River

1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather

1.55 LWT News and weather

1.10 Sports. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves review the football week and look forward to the weekend's games and to Graham Taylor's debut match as England's manager on Wednesday

1.40 Sportsman's. Dickie Davies continues his look for the country's ultimate sportsman - he chooses some of the quickest sporting brains as challengers

2.10 Self 90. Cowes Week. Highlights of one of the leading events in the yachting calendar. Presented by Gareth Evans

3.10 Film: Cora of Sebaste (1960, b/w) starring Peter Cushing, Bernard Lee and Gordon Jackson. Peasable suspense drama from an old Ealing director Charles Frend about an experienced Lord who inexplicably crashes his plane. When he later dies in a similar accident, his daughter launches an investigation

4.45 Results Service

5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather

5.05 LWT News and weather

5.15 The New Adventures of Black Beauty: Breaking In. Series based on Anna Sewall's classic children's novel, set at the turn of the century. Vicky and her stepmother Jenny are treated warily by their new equine friend. They in turn are having doubts about whether they can afford to keep. Manifested, their antics but eager young cook, Starring Amber Williams, Stacy Daring and William Lucas

5.45 Baywatch: Old Florida. Bronze bodies, sun and sand in this glossy, superficial series about the lifeguards of Los Angeles County. While hanging-gliding on a mountain top, Mitch and Chris become involved in a battle and their bond grows as Mitch is the only hope of rescue. Starring David Hasselhoff. (Oracle)

6.40 Catchphrase. High-tech quiz, hosted by Roy Walker, in which quick-witted contestants set out to win cash prizes by solving the phrases appearing on an animated board

7.10 Beedie's About. A compilation of Jeremy Beedie's many childish pranks which he has played on unsuspecting victims who do not seem to mind being made to look extremely foolish

7.40 Film: Diamonds Are Forever (1971). Non-stop, over-the-top action film starring Sean Connery, Jill St John and Lara Voo. James Bond's search for a convincing diamond racketeer forces him to struggle 50,000 carats of stolen diamonds to Los Angeles. His task takes him to a Los Angeles crematorium, Amsterdam and gambling dens in Las Vegas. Directed by Guy Hamilton. (Oracle)

8.50 News with Sue Carpenter. Sport and weather 10.05 LWT Weather

10.10 An Audience with... Victoria Wood. The multi-talented comedian, writer and actress Victoria Wood entertains a star audience with her unique style of humour. Her subjects include the horrors of shopping, the fun of camping under the stars and there is a saucy song about her romantic experiences (1)

11.10 Film: Planet of the Apes (1968) starring Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall and Kim Hunter. Superior science fiction adventure which spawned several sequels and a television series. A group of astronauts crash land on a planet where apes rule, and are rounded up to be used in scientific experiments. Directed by Franklin Schaffner. Followed by News headlines

1.00am The Time Tunnel. One Way to the Moon. Doug and Tony find themselves on board a spaceship heading towards Mars. Starring James Darren and Robert Colbert (1)

2.10 Coach. American comedy series about a college football coach. This week Hayden is furious when Kelly's boyfriend interrupts their traditional celebration dinner for Kelly's birthday. Starring Craig T. Nelson and Gary Carter

2.40 American College Football. Fast-moving action should be guaranteed as the Texas Longhorns take on the Colorado Buffaloes

3.40 With Steam Up. A musical jukebox. The Hit Man and Her. Pete Wastman and Michaels Strachan introduce the best dance music from the country's top clubs

5.00 ITN Morning News with Christabel King. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

6.50 Open University: Maths - And So On. 7.15 Social Problems and Social Welfare 7.40 Maths: The Location Problem 8.05 Operating Systems 8.30 The Social Primate: Growing Up 8.55 The Export of Pollution 9.20 Light on Lasers 9.45 School of the Future? 10.10 Living with Technology: Oil 10.35 Chile in the International System

11.00 The "User-Friendly" School 11.25 Kaffka and His World 11.50 Maths: Goodness of Fit 12.15 Probing the Structure of Liquids 12.40 Art in 15th Century Italy 1.05 Mastering Management 1.30 Modern Art: Gaudin on Criticism 1.55 The Effective Manager 2.20 Attitudes: The Second Handicap

2.45 Network East. In the second of five programmes presenting some of the finest Indian performers, the theatre group Yashodharma, from the state of Karnataka, perform part of the epic *The Mahabharata* entitled Abhimanyu's Fate, set on the battlefield of Kurukshetra where the Pandavas and the Kauravas face each other

3.25 Film: Sister Kenny (1946, b/w) Uplifting story, based on fact, about a young Australian nurse (Rosalind Russell) who, against the odds, pioneers the treatment of polio for children in the bush. The medical establishment condemns her methods, but she eventually moves to America to continue her work there. Directed by Dudley Nichols

5.15 Film: Battle Hymn (1956) Rock Hudson plays a real-life clergyman and airforce colonel who believes he can make amends for bombing a German orphanage in the second world war by helping young war victims in Korea. Solid, sentimental biopic, directed by Douglas Sirk

7.00 Late Again. The first in a weekly series of highlights of *The Late Show*

7.45 NewsView. Today's news with Moira Stuart. Lynette Lihgow reviews the week's news in pictures with subtitles. Weather

8.30 Designs on Europe. A profile of the Norwegian architect Arne Henksen, whose designs for utilitarian railway buildings display a wide range of exotic influences

9.10 Play for Today: Rainy Day Women. © CHOICE: This 1984 drama of menace was written by David Pirie and directed by Ben Bolt, the team responsible for a more recent second world war story, *Never Come Back*. Common to both is the atmosphere of rumour and suspicion that pervaded Britain in the first year of the war, when the country was gripped by invasion scares. Charles Dance plays a shell-shocked army captain sent to check out civilian morale in a fantasy village. Instead of uncovering a general Dad's Army he finds a community steeped in evil and fighting a war not so much against the Nazis as its own women. The enemy is within, brutally personified by Ian Hogg's former, Suzanne Bertish, as the widow of an internee, represents the persecuted and Dance's



Shell-shocked: Charles Dance (9.10pm)

only ally is the doctor (Lindsay Duncan). The suspense is maintained throughout, before giving way to bloody cinema in a fantasy village. Instead of uncovering a general Dad's Army he finds a community steeped in evil and fighting a war not so much against the Nazis as its own women. The enemy is within, brutally personified by Ian Hogg's former, Suzanne Bertish, as the widow of an internee, represents the persecuted and Dance's

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Comic Book 7.30 International Times 8.00 Transworld Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line

9.25 Australian Rules Football presented by Steve Robillard

10.30 Consuming Passions. The Punch and Judy Show is traced from its origins to its present-day performers (1)

11.00 A Walk up Fifth Avenue. Bernard Levin concludes his stroll up the famous New York street encountering more of the interesting and eccentric people who live there (1)

11.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Fifties western series. An Irish revolutionary agent sent to the United States to kill a traitor becomes romantically involved with one of the women on the wagon train. With Ward Bond and Cliff Robertson as the guest star

12.30 American Football Red 42 (1)

1.00 Film: The Making Season (1951, b/w). The splendid Thelma Ritter war on Oscar nominally for her performance as a working-class mother who is mistaken for the maid by her son's wealthy wife, Gene Tierney. She decides to go along with the error so as not to cause embarrassment. Then Tierney's mother turns up. Directed by Mitchell Leisen

2.55 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park and the Curragh. Live coverage of the 3.00 race from the Curragh and the 3.15, 3.45, 4.15 and 4.45 races from Kempton Park

5.10 Brookside Omnibus (1). (Teletext)

6.30 Right To Reply

7.00 The World's Worst Week introduced by Shona McDonald and Michael Nicholson. Followed by Westview

8.00 Cities at War: Leningrad - The Hero City.

© CHOICE: Of the series of documentaries about cities in the second world war, this is arguably the strongest. Certainly it has the most dramatic story to tell. As the German tanks rolled into the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941, Leningrad found itself surrounded and cut off. Its three million inhabitants were trapped without fuel or food. Then came the worst winter for 100 years. With ration cards for bread and other necessities, the people tried to chew leather, put glue on their bread and turned to cannibalism. By January 1942, 100,000 people were dying each month and the streets were littered with corpses. Remarkably there was little panic, no looting, no riots and never any talk of surrender. When the 900-day siege was finally lifted, Leningrad had more than earned its title of the heroic city. Mixing eye-witness accounts with rough-edged news film from the period, the programme rises triumphantly to its theme and is often very moving. (Teletext)

9.00 Hollywood Legends: Gregory Peck - His Own Man.

© CHOICE: This clip-and-interviews profile is no more searching than the others in the series, with not much in the way of analysis and everyone falling over themselves to bow to a rising star. Peck's admirers include Audrey Hepburn, Anthony Quinn, Jack Lemmon and Jane Fonda. Liza Minnelli calls him the ultimate movie star. At the same time the programme makes a strong case for Peck as an actor of no mean ability who has consistently refused to take the easy road. It reminds us that



An enemy of Nixon's Gregory Peck (9.00pm)

there have been some very good Peck films (not least *Captain Jack*, which is being shown on Channel 4 tomorrow) and plenty of exceptions to the standard image of Peck as the handsome upright hero. Perhaps Peck's greatest achievement was being declared an enemy of Uncle Steve by President Nixon, for daring to present a film critical of the Vietnam war. (Teletext)

10.00 Film: The Two Lives of Mattia Pascal (1985) starring Marcello Mastroianni. A dramatized version of Luigi Pirandello's novel, *The Late Mattia Pascal*, about a wealthy playboy who assumes a new identity as a poor man, only to find himself in a dead-end job. Directed by Mario Monicelli

12.00am The Oprah Winfrey Show. Some of the best moments with past guests including Tom Cruise, Mel Gibson and Dolly Parton (1)

1.10am The World's Worst Week. The first part of the series about the world's worst week in the second world war. Ends at 2.05

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm Windmill 2.30 The A Team 3.05-4.45 Film: *They Came to the End* 11.10 Film: *Adaptation* 1.30 Film: *Providence* and *New Travellers* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

BORDER

As London except 2.10pm-2.15pm *Windmill* 2.30 Film: *The Thief of Baghdad* 11.10 Film: *Providence* 1.30 Film: *Providence* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

CENTRAL

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm *Cherry* 1.30 Film: *Providence* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

CHANNEL

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm *Katrina*

GRANADA

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm *Windmill* 2.30 Film: *Providence* 1.30 Film: *Providence* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

HITV WEST

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm *Windmill* 2.30 Film: *Providence* 1.30 Film: *Providence* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

HITV WALES

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm *Windmill* 2.30 Film: *Providence* 1.30 Film: *Providence* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

SCOTTISH

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm *Windmill* 2.30 Film: *Providence* 1.30 Film: *Providence* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

YORKSHIRE

As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm *Windmill* 2.30 Film: *Providence* 1.30 Film: *Providence* 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-6.00 US Pro-Busting Tour

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW

5.00am Gary Kemp 7.00 The Bruno and the Bunch 8.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 9.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 10.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 11.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 12.00am The Bruno and the Bunch

RADIO 2

FM Stereo

4.00am Dave Brubeck 8.00am Graham Nash 10.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 11.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 12.00am The Bruno and the Bunch

RADIO 3

FM Stereo

6.35am Open University (FM only) 6.55am Weather and News Headlines 7.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 8.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 9.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 10.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 11.00am The Bruno and the Bunch 12.00am The Bruno and the Bunch

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SATELLITE

SKY ONE

8.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 9.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 10.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 11.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 12.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

SKY MOVIES

8.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 9.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 10.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 11.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 12.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

SKY NEWS

8.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 9.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 10.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 11.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 12.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

SKY NEWS

8.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 9.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 10.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 11.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 12.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

0800 717188

SUNDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University: Comparing Trades Unions 7.10 Modelling in Comfort 7.25 The Will To Win 8.00 Organics by the Ten 8.25 Madder Than Top and Gyroscopes. Ends at 8.55.
- 8.55 Playdays. Fun for the young (9.15) Umbrella. Multi-faith children's programme (r).
- 9.30 This is the Day. A simple religious service from a young people's camp site, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Tooty community in France.
- 10.00 Film: Tubby the Tuba (1977). Animated version of the children's story with the voices of Dick Van Dyke, Pearl Bailey and Hermione Gingold. Directed by Alexander Schure. Wales: Wild World 10.50-11.40 Neighbours 1,000th Episode Celebration.
- 11.20 Cartoon.
- 11.40 See Hear! This first of two reports from the British Deaf Association's centenary looks at the papers and performances given and includes the visit of the patron, the Princess of Wales.
- 12.30 Country File. Rural issues with John Craven. The consequences of rising sea levels caused by global warming are examined with farmer, conservationist and writer Robin Page. The programme visits areas of Britain under threat of being submerged. Weather News with Moira Stuart. Followed by Speaking Volumes. Writer Mike Phillips, Laura Cumming and the author and Russell Davies join P. D. James to discuss *Downfall* by Ed McBain and *The Snowbird* by Bridget Brophy. The guest is Jeanette Winter, author of *Orange Are Not the Only Fruit* and *Saving the Planet*. 1.45 The Pink Panther Show (r).
- 2.00 EastEnders Omnibus (r). (Ceefax)
- 3.00 Film: The Count of Monte Cristo (1974). A made-for-television version of the Dumas story has Richard Chamberlain playing a man in a fancy costume as the ship officer accused of sympathising with the enemy (Napoleon). He escapes from prison after ten years with the key to a fortune and goes in pursuit of the traitors. A routine swashbuckler which also stars Trevor Howard, Curtis, Louis Jourdan, Donald Pleasence

- and Kate Nelligan. Directed by David Greene. (Ceefax)
- 4.40 Farmborough 50. Noel Edmonds and team report from the last day of the air show, including a look at the latest generation of heavy jets, the future of the defence industry and the shape of air travel to come.
- 5.30 The Great Picture Chase. Cricketer David Gower takes a break from his favourite artist David Shepherd as he goes in search of an African wildlife painting for £500 (Ceefax).
- 6.00 The Clothes Show. More advice on what to wear to look the part. How to make your make-up invisible, choosing a dress of the year for the Museum of Costume in Bath, news of December's Clothes Show Live exhibition in Birmingham and a knitting competition. Plus, from Los Angeles, a new concept in shoes.
- 6.25 News with Moira Stuart. Weather.
- 6.40 Songs of Praise from Lichfield Cathedral. With the Choir School Association and featuring an interview with its patron, the Duchess of Kent. (Ceefax)
- 7.15 Last of the Summer Wine. Ageless comedy with the sprightly Yorkshire pensioners. This week Foggy (good to have him back) supplies Compo and Clegg with ex-eremy radios through which they can keep in touch. With Bill Owen, Peter Sallis and Brian Wilde (r). (Ceefax)
- 7.45 Howards' Way. The continuing drama of unpleasant sea-faring folk. Jen and Lynne are reunited, Ken Masters is scuppered by Laura Wilde and Freer continues his fight for the Mennard Yard. (Ceefax)
- 8.35 Bread. More subversive comedy from Carla Lane's resourceful Boswell family. Nellie is off to the hospital to collect her new granddaughter and Adrian composes a poem about their new neighbour, Leonora. (Ceefax)
- 9.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather.
- 9.20 Screen One: Frankenstein's Baby (1990).
- 9.30 CHOICE: Emma Tennant's *Frankenstein's Baby* is neither particularly black nor a bundle of laughs but a somewhat straight-faced feminist parable about a man who becomes pregnant and comes to realise what women have to go through. Nigel Planer and Kate Buffery play a professional couple with high-



Nigel Planer and Kate Buffery (9.20pm)

powered jobs. He wants a child, but she refuses to give up her career to have one. As she, with deliberate irony, tries off to help starving children in Africa, he has a consultation with a Dr Eva Frankenstein (Yvonne Bryceland) and finds himself expecting. After a ponderous start, full of deliberately planted conversations about the joys and otherwise of having children, *Frankenstein's Baby* is at its most successful tackling the role-reversal theme. Now it is he who must choose between family and career, while she complains of having to work, work, work to pay the bills. (Ceefax)

10.35 Everyman: The Fifth Gospel. Has Christianity a Christian attitude towards the disabled? *Everyman* explores this question through a piece written and performed by Nabil Shaban. A young crippled girl makes a pilgrimage to Lourdes in the hope of a cure for her "bourse". With Tina Leslie (r).

11.15 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd. American comedy starring Blair Brown as a real-estate saleswoman. Molly receives a job offer with considerable fringe benefits. Should she take it? Wales: Brecon Jazz 90.

11.40 Network East (r) Wales. 11.45 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd 12.10am Network East.

12.20am Weather 12.50 Wales: News and weather.

ITV LONDON

- 8.00 TV-am. Includes at 8.00 Frost on Sunday in which Mrs Thatcher discusses domestic issues. Gennady Gerasimov is interviewed in Moscow. Crown Prince Hassan in Amman; and there is a preview of the Helsinki summit.
- 9.25 The Disney Club with a dog's eye view of a dog show and pop guests Yell.
- 10.45 Link: The Right To Live. Why disabled people in America are worried.
- 11.00 Morning Worship from St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Southwark, London.
- 12.00 The Human Factor: Gala - Earth Mother. A new series examining humans' role in the world.
- 12.30 The Care Bears 12.55 LWT News and weather.
- 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather.
- 1.10 Walden. Brian Walden interviews William Waldegrave, minister of state, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- 2.00 Film: The Paratrooper (1953). Alan Ladd stars in this routine, second world war flag waver about an American who rescues the British paratrooper. With Leo Genn, Stanley Baker and Susan Stephen. Directed by Terence Young.
- 3.50 Cartoon Time.
- 4.00 The London Match. Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of a top Barclays League match involving a London club, with commentary by Brian Moore.
- 5.00 Charlie's Angels: Angels in the Wings. Harriett adventures of a glamorous group of female investigators. They join the production crew of an ill-fated musical to find out who is haunting the show. Starring Jack Jackson, Jacqui Smith and Cheryl Dade (r).

- 6.00 All Clued Up. Game show.
- 6.30 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather.
- 6.55 LWT News and weather.
- 6.40 Highway. Harry Secombe ventures into Lambeth, south London.
- 7.15 Murder, She Wrote: Jack and Bill. Jessica recalls an old friend. Bill Boyle, an ex-footballer turned detective who had a very unusual partner - a French poodle answering to the name of Jack or should it be Jacques?
- 8.15 Onassis - The Richest Man in the World. First of a two-part mini-series about the man who rose from poverty and obscurity to power. Starring Raul Julia (Oracle).
- 9.30 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather.
- 9.45 LWT Weather.
- 9.50 Tales of the Unexpected: The Last of the Midnight Gardeners. Another mystery from Ronald Dahl. When a partnership stages a competition for the perfect murder story, he finds his cubicle life becomes more complicated. With Jane Asher and Patrick Mower (r). (Oracle)
- 10.20 The South Bank Show: Ackroyd's Dickens. CHOICE: Peter Ackroyd's biography of Charles Dickens is the peg for an ambitious film which has so much going on in it that the viewer is cautioned to keep a clear head. Ackroyd is interviewed by Melvyn Bragg about Dickens and the writing of biography. Dickens turns up, played by John Sessions, and is interviewed by Peter Ackroyd. Dickens' scenes are invaded by his characters and chats to actors playing Oscar Wilde and T. S. Eliot. There are dramatised excerpts from the novels and the centuries take us to Marshalsea Prison and other Dickens locations. The question is whether this multi-



Dickens of a role: John Sessions (10.20pm)

pronged approach adds to the sum of knowledge and understanding or merely confuses. My feeling is that the film tries to take on too much and restricts its coverage too thin. There is enough material here for a series. Ackroyd's assertion that Dickens is the greatest English novelist and the greatest English writer after Shakespeare goes unchallenged.

11.40 Comics. The Ninth Art. Series on the history of comic books.

12.15am GOIT: PGA Tour 90. The Great Milwaukee Open.

1.15 The ITV Chart Show (r).

2.15 US Pro-Surfing Tour. The best of the season's action.

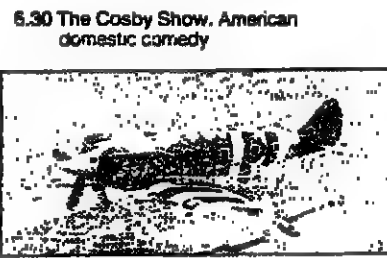
3.15 American Documentary: Thoroughbred. A Magic Way of Going. A look at the hereditary breeding and training of racehorses.

4.15 The Silk Road: A Thousand Kilometers Beyond the Yellow River. Following the trade route which for centuries carried everything from silk to religion from East to West.

5.15 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Transworld Sport (r) 7.00 Guitarra (r) 7.30 Once upon a Time...Life. An animated examination of the inside workings of the human body (r) 8.00 Early Bird. For children 8.25 David the Gnome 8.55 Ramona.
- 9.25 Settlers' Tales: The Councilor's Tale (r) 9.30 The Playful Muse. Ravi sets to music the Gaelic works of the 18th-century poet Gualar.
- 10.00 The Man Goes North. Tom Vernon continues his travels across Scandinavia on a two-wheeled voyage of discovery (r) (Teletext).
- 11.00 Storywheel. For deaf and hearing children (r).
- 11.30 Ely & Joos. Australian series about a displaced child who finds his way to a friend's a girl ghost 12.00 The Waltons 1.00 Land of the Giants. Science fiction adventures.
- 2.00 Film: Another Man's Poison (1951). b/w) Bette Davis stars as a best-selling writer with an estranged husband who does world's largest toy. Her life at an inconvenient time. Modelling melodrama, directed by Irving Rapper.
- 3.10 A Dream of Norway. A British Rail film of scenic Norway.
- 4.00 Gangsters, Gossip and Graft: The 1930s. A new series about the gangster. The year's speaker is David Rose. Channel 4's founding head of drama.
- 5.00 A Beginner's Guide to American Football. (Teletext).
- 5.25 News summary and weather.
- 5.30 Dancing into the Nineties. Another media academy to hone the skills of the fledgling dancers. This one made at the Academy in London, looks at fashion, film and funny dancing.



Fact versus legend: the sparrow (7.00pm)

- 6.30 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy.
- 9.30 The Media Show. CHOICE: Back for a fifth series, *The Media Show* has a new format combining elements of magazine and documentary and promises a greater emphasis on investigative journalism. A strength of the show is that it has allowed enough space for topics to be treated at a reasonable length and tonight a programme is devoted to an examination of impartiality in broadcasting. The page is the proposed impartiality clause of the Broadcasting Bill, although the issue seems to be less one of bias than programmes than of balancing a variety of opinions over a channel's output. *The Media Show* tries to demonstrate its sense of balance by offering a platform to critics such as Lord Wailly and Teresa Gorman, MP, as well as broadcasting professionals who fear for their freedom should the impartiality clause become law.
- 10.15 Film: Gentlemen's Agreement (1947, b/w). As a complement to last year's *Outcasts*, a film about the anti-Semitism of the 1940s. The film took three Oscars, although its appeal, which was mostly emotional, has mellowed over the years. Also starring Celeste Holm and Dorothy McGuire, directed by Elia Kazan.
- 12.30am Cinema from Three Continents: Mirchi Masala (1986). An Indian film about the effect a lecherous rent collector has on a small village when his advances on the local beauty are spurned. Starring Naseeruddin Shah, Smita Patel and Om Puri. In Hindi with English subtitles. Directed by Ketan Mehta. Ends at 2.45.

BBC 2

- 6.35 Open University: Introduction to Pure Maths - Banach spaces and Snowflakes 7.00 Hazardous Waste Disposal 7.25 Monty Python: Life in a Chateau 7.50 The Universe. Yesterday 8.15 Designing a Lift 8.40 Herod and Judaea 9.05 Materials in Action 9.30 Meanings of Madness: Psychiatry Control of Age 9.55 Rural Life: Image and Reality 10.20 Biology, Form and Function: Plant Propagation 10.45 Maths: And So On 11.10 Learning from the Box: The Programmes 11.35 Science and Nuclear Waste 12.00 The Other Virtuosos 12.25 Fontainebleau: The Changing Shape of Kinship 12.50 Literature in the Modern World 1.00 A World Within.
- 1.25 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 1.30 and 3.45 Golf: action from the final round of the Panasonic European Open from Sunningdale. The commentators are Peter Alliss, Graeme Dorrain, Peter Clark, Alex Hay and Mike Hughes; 1.55 and 6.50 Motor Racing: the

- Italian grand prix from Monza. Murray Walker and James Hunt are the commentators; 3.35 Racing from the Murgare Stod Skeggs, worth more than the £100 million prize. It's Europe's most valuable race for two-year-old fillies. Tony O'Maher is the commentator.
- 6.35 Troubleshotter. Sir John Harvey-Jones visits sinking companies and imparts advice on the best way to survive. Once the world's largest toy manufacturer, Tri-ang, now operating from a converted mill in Manchester, has had a succession of owners, been asset-stripped and gone into receivership. With Harvey-Jones's help, can it make a comeback? (r)
- 7.15 The National World: Island in the Air. Wildlife is not the first word that springs to mind when Ethiopia is mentioned, but in the fertile landscape of the Bale Mountains plants and animals flourish (r).
- 8.00 Live from the Proms. The veteran Günter Wand conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Bruckner's Fifth Symphony, an epic masterpiece that is considered to be the

- composer's tour de force. Introduced by Michael Berkeley (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3).
- 9.25 Sir Leonard Hutton. In tribute to the late cricketer, a repeat of the *Maestro* programme in which he was interviewed by Donald Treford.
- 10.05 Italian Grand Prix. Highlights of the afternoon's race at Monza.
- 10.40 Moviecrimes. Alex Cox introduces Down by Law (1986, b/w). This erratic season of cut-throat ends on a high note with a grand finale. In a comedy about life on the run. A radio DJ and a downtown New Orleans pimp find themselves sharing a prison cell after being framed. They are joined by a Bob, an exuberant Italian killer (Roberto Benigni) who converses in pidgin English with the other inmates. The film is atmospherically shot in black and white with Watts and Lurie providing the music. A stylish, bizarre comedy. Directed by Jim Jarmusch. (Ceefax).
- 12.25am Film: Harry Carpenter introduces the *Symphony Orchestra in Bruckner's Fifth Symphony*, an epic masterpiece that is considered to be the

RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW.
- 6.00am Gary Kemp 7.00 The Breeze and Live Broadcast 8.30 David La Touche 12.30pm 30 Years of Number One 5.30 The Proclaimers 5.45 The Proclaimers 5.50 The Proclaimers 6.00 The Proclaimers 6.10 The Proclaimers 6.20 The Proclaimers 6.30 The Proclaimers 6.40 The Proclaimers 6.50 The Proclaimers 7.00 The Proclaimers 7.10 The Proclaimers 7.20 The Proclaimers 7.30 The Proclaimers 7.40 The Proclaimers 7.50 The Proclaimers 8.00 The Proclaimers 8.10 The Proclaimers 8.20 The Proclaimers 8.30 The Proclaimers 8.40 The Proclaimers 8.50 The Proclaimers 9.00 The Proclaimers 9.10 The Proclaimers 9.20 The Proclaimers 9.30 The Proclaimers 9.40 The Proclaimers 9.50 The Proclaimers 10.00 The Proclaimers 10.10 The Proclaimers 10.20 The Proclaimers 10.30 The Proclaimers 10.40 The Proclaimers 10.50 The Proclaimers 11.00 The Proclaimers 11.10 The Proclaimers 11.20 The Proclaimers 11.30 The Proclaimers 11.40 The Proclaimers 11.50 The Proclaimers 12.00 The Proclaimers 12.10 The Proclaimers 12.20 The 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Scientists claim new link in brain disease

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS claim they have found the first hard evidence of a genetic link with the human brain disorder Creutzfeldt Jakob disease.

American researchers have linked a defective gene with three recent outbreaks of the fatal disease in parts of Eastern Europe and Israel. A team of scientists from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes in Bethesda, Maryland found the identical genetic mutation in every victim they studied.

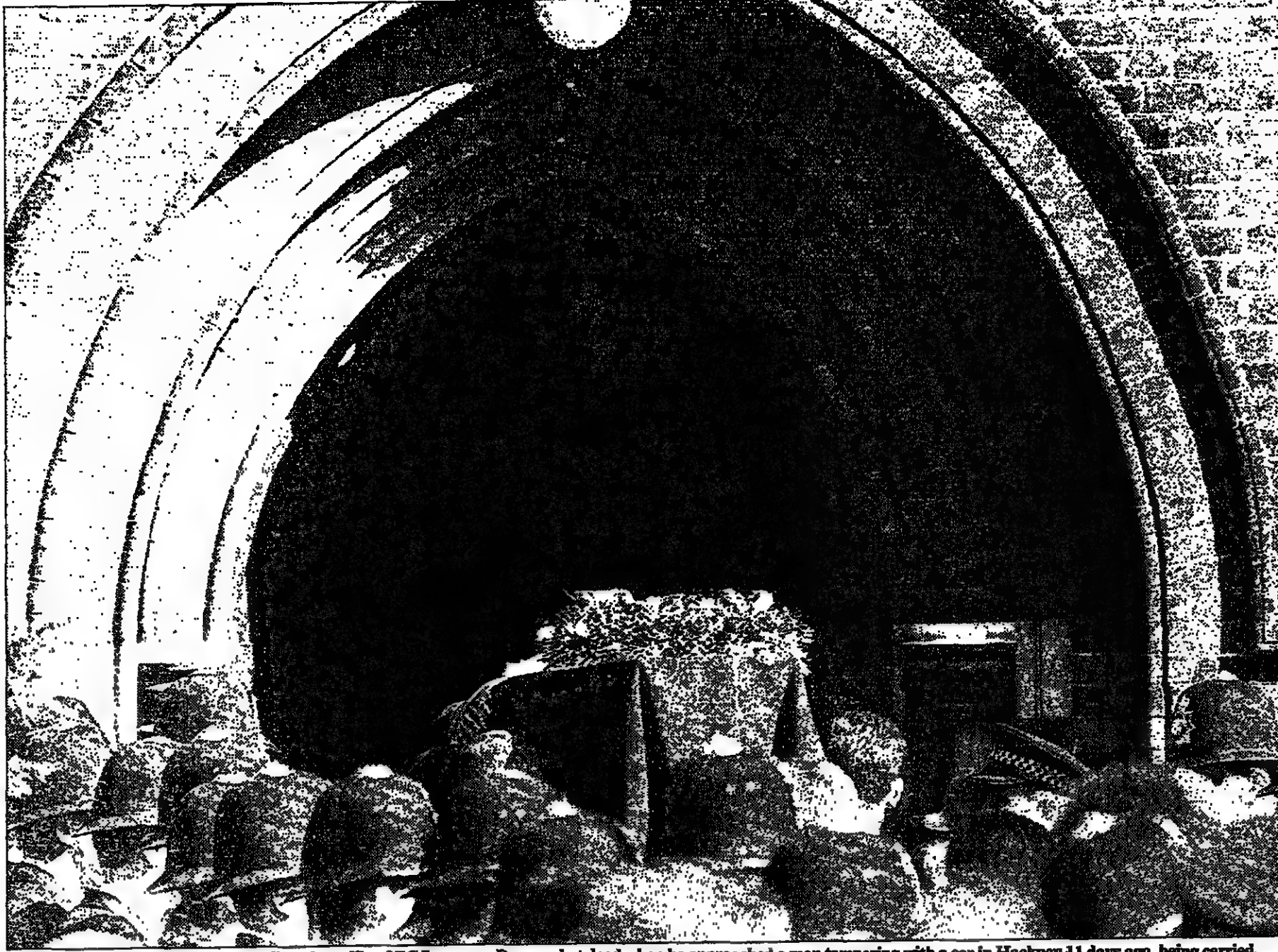
However Dr Paul Brown from the institute said yesterday that it was still unclear whether the mutation actually caused the disease or whether it increased someone's susceptibility to an environmental factor such as the scrapie infection in sheep.

Creutzfeldt Jakob disease strikes one person in a million worldwide, although it has been found in clusters in certain countries. Initially it causes mental degeneration in a similar way to Alzheimer's disease.

The illness may also be related to the disease scrapie which attacks sheep and appears to have been transmitted to cows in the form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. There is no evidence to date that the disease has been transmitted to humans.

However Dr Brown pointed out that most of the people examined had come from sheep breeding areas contaminated with scrapie. It was possible that those with the mutated gene had been infected with scrapie, he said.

The research findings, which are published in the *Lancet* today, examined a cluster of CJD victims in seven Sephardic Jews. Four were Libyan born Israeli residents and the three others came from Greece and Tunisia. A similar study published in the *Lancet* two weeks ago reported that the same mutant gene had been found in eleven victims in Slovakia. Although some of the cases were familial some were just isolated instances of the disease. Some of the relatives of victims had the mutant gene but had not developed the disease. "The inference is that the mutated gene is a necessary but not sufficient factor to cause the disease," said Mr Brown.



Hero's farewell: surrounded by police, the coffin of PC Lawrence Brown, shot dead when he approached a man tampering with a car in Hackney 11 days ago, being carried into St Chad's, Chadwell Heath, yesterday. Mourners, led by PC Brown's widow, Janet, holding their daughter, Emma, aged four months, packed the church and its hall.

Friends mourn Taylor

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE death of A.J.P. Taylor, who was once described as the greatest popular historian in Britain since Macaulay, was greeted with sadness last night by colleagues and friends. Mr Taylor had suffered from Parkinson's disease for several years and had been in a nursing home in north London for the past two years.

As a "television don", Mr Taylor opened up the world of history to millions of ordinary people. His series of television lectures in 1956 on the Russian revolution were the first of a number of highly successful broadcasts. Millions of viewers also tuned in to his idiosyncratic but brilliant lectures on the first world war and the prime ministers of England.

Obituary, page 14

Conductor replaced in Proms

By GEOFF KING

MARK Elder, the conductor who was to have led the Last Night of the Proms at the Albert Hall next week has been replaced after saying he would consider removing stirring nationalist anthems such as *Land of Hope and Glory* and *Rule Britannia!* if war broke out in the Gulf.

Mr Elder, who is music director of the English National Opera, will be replaced by Andrew Davis, chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, at the head of the musical extravaganza.

£1m a day Gulf bill

Continued from page 1

in the Gulf was £1 million a day. The bill for employment and additional equipment costs is already up to £75 million.

Mr King said that the funding of such additional costs would be discussed with the Gulf states, but ministers have not yet broached the subject with those who might be expected to contribute to the bill. One Whitehall source said yesterday: "We didn't go in there thinking about getting our cash back."

Britain has, however, already been assured of contributions to costs, such as free fuel, from some host nations, and ministers believe that Britain will be called upon for a lesser contribution to

the general support fund for front-line nations such as Egypt and Turkey as a result of her military contributions in the Gulf.

Throughout a measured and serious debate not a single speaker suggested that the response to Iraqi aggression should be moderated out of concern for British hostages.

However, Opposition anxieties about a possible attack on Iraq showed as Labour's two front bench contributors, foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman and defence spokesman Martin O'Neill, insisted that the Opposition support in the recall debate did not represent a blank cheque for anything the government decided to do in future.

Forsyth gives up party role

Continued from page 1
pact dismayed his friends in the Thatcherite No Turning Back Group of Tory MPs and elsewhere on the right of the parliamentary party. As the Commons debated the Gulf conflict yesterday, behind the scenes government whips were on the receiving end of what one Forsyth follower called a "tidal wave of support" for him.

It is understood that the combination of this pressure and a personal appeal from Mrs Thatcher over lunch led him to accept a promotion in the Scottish Office ministerial team while abandoning his party role.

It is widely believed at Westminster that Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary and no ideological friend of Mr Forsyth, has been behind the campaign by the Scottish Tory Reform Group to oust the junior minister from a post to which he was appointed a year ago by the prime minister.

Mr Rifkind's supporters accuse Mr Forsyth of plotting against his chief and point to the furore over a threat to the Scottish secretary that, overshadowed the Scottish Conservative conference in Aberdeen in May.

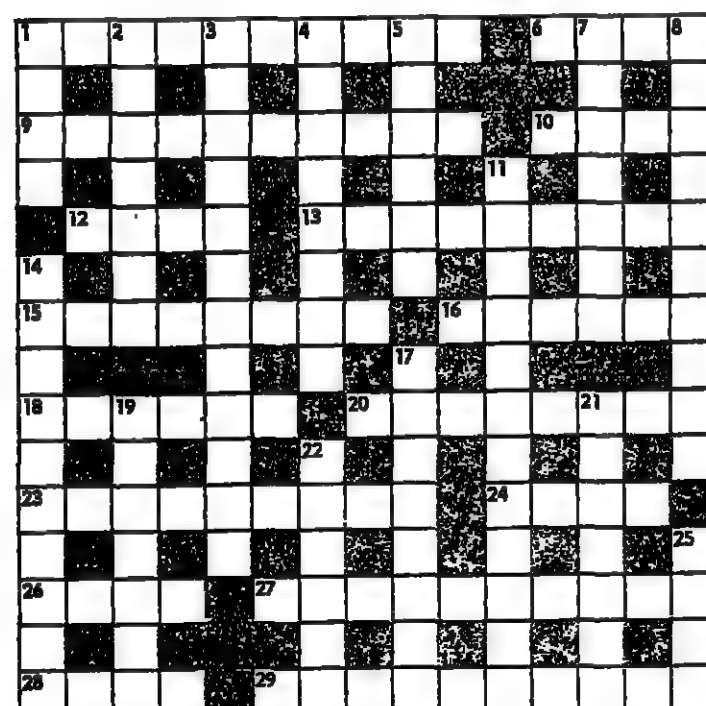
It is also believed that Mr Rifkind finds it difficult to work with Mr Forsyth within government and there was surprise among some MPs that Mrs Thatcher had taken with one hand and given with another.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, and the former solicitor-general for Scotland, said: "I thought the complaint was that the secretary of state could not bear to be in the same room as him. They are going to be in the same room a lot more now."

Mr Forsyth, who was making ready to teach his daughter Sarah about rock-climbing this weekend, made no comment on the upheaval, but Mr Rifkind said in Edinburgh last night: "There was not a shadow of a doubt that the vast majority of the party in Scotland would welcome the changes."

Sir Nicholas, a fierce critic of Mr Rifkind's handling of law-reform in Scotland, added that the "message" had topped the optimistic and dynamic chairman the party had had. He complained of a witchhunt by Mr Rifkind and the cohorts of backwoodsmen. Some right-wing English Tory MPs said that the topping of Mr Forsyth by the Scottish "lards" who had run the party for years.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,394



- ACROSS**
- Material right foot put on view (10).
 - Pluck the strings (4).
 - Hood household officer put on here? (6-4).
 - Ship said to be in German port (4).
 - Lean over to win the ball (4).
 - Sponge money once to meet the fare (5-4).
 - Former servant girl put on about four inches (8).
 - At last, hanging to discourage the terrorist (6).
 - Supine, wavering sort of judge (6).
 - Worker in processing plant needs a head covering (8).
 - Usually mild, but consumed by rage (9).
 - Lots of men took Mary out (4).
 - Twist copper one way then the other (4).
 - Gastropod grows blue (10).
 - I must leave firm, betrayed (4).
- DOWN**
- Get-rich-quick type needed to repair torn finery (5-5).
 - It used to be very painful (4).
 - You are an outspoken rustic Greek islander (7).
 - Obsessive about scoring individually? (6-6).
 - Such a supportive woman in the Temple (8).
 - A point to nil, before the end: that'll do (6).
 - Not changing gear (7).
 - Christian virtue fills a need, after a fashion (4-6).
 - Almost 29 in Rome to receive purification, for example (12).
 - Put wood for urinals (10).
 - Brave pirate's superficial improvement (4-4).
 - A very small stretch of speech is naughty (7).
 - Unpleasant person, related to Tony? (7).
 - Manage to assemble a party (4,2).
 - River causing erosion (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,388

ACROSS: 1. Material right foot put on view (10). 2. Pluck the strings (4). 3. Hood household officer put on here? (6-4). 4. Ship said to be in German port (4). 5. Lean over to win the ball (4). 6. Sponge money once to meet the fare (5-4). 7. Former servant girl put on about four inches (8). 8. At last, hanging to discourage the terrorist (6). 9. Supine, wavering sort of judge (6). 10. Worker in processing plant needs a head covering (8). 11. Usually mild, but consumed by rage (9). 12. Lots of men took Mary out (4). 13. Twist copper one way then the other (4). 14. Gastropod grows blue (10). 15. I must leave firm, betrayed (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,393

DOWN: 1. Get-rich-quick type needed to repair torn finery (5-5). 2. It used to be very painful (4). 3. You are an outspoken rustic Greek islander (7). 4. Obsessive about scoring individually? (6-6). 5. Such a supportive woman in the Temple (8). 6. A point to nil, before the end: that'll do (6). 7. Not changing gear (7). 8. Christian virtue fills a need, after a fashion (4-6). 9. Almost 29 in Rome to receive purification, for example (12). 10. Put wood for urinals (10). 11. Brave pirate's superficial improvement (4-4). 12. A very small stretch of speech is naughty (7). 13. Unpleasant person, related to Tony? (7). 14. Manage to assemble a party (4,2). 15. River causing erosion (4).

Concise Crossword, page 15

PARKER DUOFOLD
A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and gold guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions entered in the Thursday *Enigma* should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 406, Virginia Street, London E1 9PD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address:

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

REDOWA

- A fast Bohemian dance
- The parades of a parapet
- Red Caspian Sea caviar

NULLIDEGE

- Net giving clarity
- A jungle track
- A coralline seaweed

CHURINGA

- A fragrant shrub
- A sacred amulet
- A one-pass carriage

THERIAC

- An ice bridge
- An antidote to poison
- French Revolutionary month

Answers on page 15

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0958 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	702
Devon/Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	705
Berks/Bucks/Oxon	706
Essex/Herts & Essex	707
Wiltshire/Suffolk/Cambs	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire/Hertfordshire	710
East Midlands	711
Yorkshire/Humber	712
Lincolnshire & Cleveland	713
East of England	714
East of England	715
W & S Yorks & Wales	716
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W & S Yorks & Wales	730

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C London (within N & S Cires.)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23	735
M-ways/roads M23-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Midlands	742
East Angles	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746
Northern Ireland	747

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: E O Cunningham, King Street, Southsea, Hants; J A Roberts, Old Station Yard, North Coton, Northampton; J F Ridd, 100 Park Road, Wotton on Thames, Surrey; 1 Adm, Salisbury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent; A Morgan, Llanwrnog, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Wales.

WEATHER

Early cloud and patchy light rain over Northern Ireland, central and southern Scotland will spread south into northern England before dying out. Apart from showers near the East Anglia coast and in northern Scotland all other parts will be dry with sunny periods. It will feel less cold than yesterday. Outlook for Sunday and Monday: mostly dry with sunny periods. Warmer by day but cold at night. Increasing cloud and rain likely later on Monday in the far north-west.

ABROAD

Medway: (w)thunder; (d)drizzle; (f)fog; (s)sun; (a)clear; (m)mist; (r)rain; (c)cloud; (h)haze

	C	F	M	G	F
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7
Algeria	28	70	3	40	7

AROUND BRITAIN

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 8am, 17C (63F); min 8pm to 10pm, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.4 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8pm, 7.8 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 8pm, 16C (61F); min 8pm to 10pm, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.4 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8pm, 7.8 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 8pm, 16C (61F); min 8pm to 10pm, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.4 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8pm, 7.8 hr.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 7.32 pm to 8.25 am
Edinburgh 7.30 pm to 8.22 am
Manchester 7.43 pm to 8.31 am
Penzance 7.40 pm to 8.33 am
Perth 7.50 pm to 8.50 am

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Folkestone, Kent 20C (68F); lowest day temp: Balaclava, Dumfries and Galloway, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: Folkestone, Kent 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Balaclava, Dumfries and Galloway, 4C (39F).

HIGH TIDES

	AM	PM	HT	HT
London Bridge	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6

NOON TODAY

	AM	PM	HT	HT
London Bridge	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
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Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft. Times are BST

	AM	PM	HT	HT
London Bridge	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
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Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
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Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6
Alford	10.03	13.5	10.22	13.6

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft. Times are BST

	AM	PM	HT</
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Forsyth gives party role

SUMMARY

Simpson's tour guide



BOBBY Simpson (above), the manager of Australia and Leicestershire, considers the case for a four-day county championship, and inspects England's selection for the tour of Australia this winter.

Meanwhile, the battle for the Britannic Assurance county championship enters its final stages, with Middlesex playing Nottinghamshire at Lord's and the leaders, Essex, taking on Northamptonshire at Chelmsford. Page 29

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan's peer

WHO can stop Wigan from repeating their runaway championship success of last season? Keith Macklin previews the season and predicts that Widnes are once again likely to prove their main rivals. Page 30

TENNIS

Graf's point

STEFFI Graf (above), the world No. 1, is trying to put behind her the disappointments of Wimbledon and Paris by retaining the women's singles title at the US Open. In the semi-finals yesterday, she beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Page 28

MOTOR RACING

Driving home

AYRTON Senna has a clear lead over Alain Prost at the top of the Formula One world championship. Can the Ferrari pair of Prost and Mansell give their home crowd something to cheer tomorrow? Page 26

RACING

Dayjur view

Dayjur can consolidate his position as the season's champion sprinter by winning the Ladbrooke Sprint Cup at Haydock Park this afternoon. The colt, trained by Dick Hern, has already won two of the calendar's most important speed tests, the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Keeneland Nunthorpe Stakes at York. Page 31

ATHLETICS

Fast talking

JOHN Regis (above) caught the public imagination with his performances during the European championships in Split last week. David Powell talks to the sprinter whose exploits in the 4 x 400 metres relay almost outshone his gold-medal winning performance in the individual 200 metres. Page 26

YACHTING

Making waves

The unusual look of the Powerlite powerboat is not the only thing that distinguishes it from the family cruisers that surround it. Keith Wheatley reports on a boat that is definitely not for retiring types. Page 33

Insatiable Woosnam sweeps to impressive halfway lead

By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IAN Woosnam's insatiable appetite for golf titles swept him into the half-way lead in the Panasonic European Open with a second round of 68 on the Old course at Sunningdale yesterday.

The Welshman has been starved of success in the major championships, but as the winner of 12 PGA European Tour titles over the last four years, he has no equal.

Woosnam, however, acknowledges that during that time he has put such a strain on himself that he has been compelled to search for methods of reducing fatigue.

His latest experiment with a new driver has possibly hampered his title challenge, although Woosnam admitted after compiling a halfway aggregate of 133 that he has little option other than to persevere.

"To get the flight I wanted with the old driver I had to really jump on it," Woosnam explained. "At the end of a 72 holes, I was absolutely shattered and I'm not getting any younger."

The new driver has a graphite shaft, it is easier to swing and I get the length I want with the flight I'm seeking.

What troubled Woosnam was a swirling wind which made conditions tricky in the morning. He snap-hooked his drives at the 16th and 17th holes and at the 18th, he sliced the ball into a bunker. Those errors cost Woosnam two shots and reduced his lead to one in front of Jose-Maria Olazabal (69), Magnus Sunesson (67) and Steven Richardson (66).

Woosnam has a remarkable record in Europe with winnings of £1,339,131 over the last four years and if he wins the £66,660 first prize tomorrow then he will return to No. 1 ahead of Mark McNulty in the Volvo Order of Merit.

He has so far competed in only 12 tournaments this season compared with McNulty's 19, and he has not played on the European Tour since the Open Championship. He has won the American Express Mediterranean Open, Monte Carlo Open and Bell's Scottish Open.

Woosnam, however, has a penchant for experimenting and, worried about how strong his grip has become, he has pushed his thumb a little further down the shaft. "There is nothing wrong with the swing," Woosnam said. "But my grip was not allowing me to get in the right position at the top of the takeaway."

Olazabal, following his win in

the World Series of Golf, is clearly oozing with confidence, although he expressed himself less than pleased with the condition of the course. "It is sad to say, but this is not the best we have seen this course," he said. "It is bit and hope off the tee because the ball bounces everywhere. I'm not in the best of moods because of the condition of the course because it makes it harder to get motivated."

Neither Richardson, last year's English amateur champion, nor Sunesson, aged 26, of Sweden, should be lacking in motivation since, if they continue their fine start to this tournament, then they can climb into the top 50 in the Order of Merit.

Robert Lee is in deeper waters as he is 183rd in the money list. Lee won tournaments in 1985 and 1987, but he is now on the threshold of being forced to return to the qualifying school. The game has been cruel enough to the former England youth international and he left Sunningdale wondering what next he must do for luck to favour him.

For Lee was in sight of surviving the half-way cut for only the fourth time this season when he realised, following three birdies in seven holes, that he had breached the one-ball rule by switching from one model to another. He had no option but to disqualify himself.

One television viewer felt Nick Faldo should have been disqualified. He telephoned the Royal and Ancient and questioned whether or not Faldo had touched the sand when taking the club back playing a bunker shot at the third. Andy McFee, the tournament director, was informed, viewed a video of the incident and ruled that the club had touched the ground but outside of the hazard.

Faldo's ball had finished close to the lip. He also came within inches of incurring a two shot penalty since the ball came back off the lip and struck his club. If it had hit his body then he would have been penalised two shots.

Having survived both incidents, Faldo finished with a 70 for a total of 138. "I'll be very surprised if I win," Faldo said. Clearly, he has a problem to overcome as he now has 19 layers of tape on his grips compared to three at the start of the season. The Wilson Sports Group company are having some special grips made for him in the United States to reduce the tension which has contributed to his stress fracture of the left wrist.

SECOND-ROUND SCORES

British and Irish players listed
135: S Richardson, 68, 66, 135: E Romero, (Arg), 70, 65, 135: B Lane, 68, 69, 138: M A Jimenez (Sp), 67, 71; R Drummond, 68, 70; R Sanchez (Arg), 70, 68, 138: M Morono (Sp), 69, 70; P Cargill, 71, 68; T Charnley, 70, 68, 140: H Balocchi (SA), 64, 76; M Peters (Sp), 68, 72; M A Martin (Sp), 69, 71; P Curry, 69, 71; R Boszai, 65, 74, 141: J Burridge (Can), 68, 72, 140: L Campbell (Arg), 69, 73; P Broadhurst, 71, 71, 140: J J. Henshaw, 70, 70, 140: J Fernandez (Arg), 72, 71, 144: G Levenson (SA), 73, 71; P Harrison, 75, 69; C Moody, 72, 72; Mosey, 70, 74, 145: S Hamill, 74, 71; M Lamer (Swi), 74, 71, 146: B Waters, 73, 73, 146: M Forsman (Swi), 74, 75, 151: D Whelan, 77, 74.



One that got away: Ian Woosnam misses a putt during his second round of 68 at Sunningdale yesterday

LA lawyer in control of Fifa's big show

From CLIVE WHITE IN ZURICH

AFTER two years of false starts, the American organisers of the 1994 World Cup football finals have been given the go-ahead by Fifa, the sport's governing body, at the end of two-and-a-half days of hard talking here, to begin serious preparations for the most spectacular and most lucrative tournament in history.

Fifa's doubts about the willingness of the United States public to take the World Cup to their bosom have been greatly eased by the installation last month by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) of a new president whom Fifa had, controversially, encouraged to stand, Alan Rothenberg, a Los Angeles attorney.

Fifa has found in Rothenberg, aged 51, a professionalism and spirit of co-operation that were missing in his predecessor, Werner Fricker.

Rothenberg had first impressed the governing body when he was commissioner of the extraordinarily successful 1984 Olympic football tournament; he was a man Fifa believed it could trust and work alongside. So it was not entirely surprising that Rothenberg, slipping out of discussions every now and then yesterday, should declare: "Fifa and the USSF are now on the same path."

Rothenberg is nobody's stooge. He has made it clear to Fifa that other than enlisting the help of Franz Beckenbauer, coach to the victorious West Germans at this year's finals, as technical director, and possibly some other foreign coaches, he has no intention of seeking outside guidance on how to stage a successful World Cup.

He categorically ruled out any suggestion that Luca di Montezemolo, the head of the Italian World Cup organising committee, might act as a consultant.

"However far behind we may stand on the field of play, I think we're ahead of the game when it comes to marketing and the like," he said.

Rothenberg is supremely confident that a deal will be done next year with the American television networks despite gloomy predictions to the contrary. In two years, there has been little or no progress in that direction other than a contract his predecessor made with NBC that Fifa vetoed.

"I'm very confident that three, if not all four, major networks will be interested in a package and that all 52 games will be covered on American networks and cable," he said.

While clearly amenable to change and a firm believer that the rules of the game will

Continued on page 27, col 2

Not a very Olympian ideal

Athens

The air here is full of romantic Hellenism: the noble people of ancient Greece who lived perfect lives and who invented the perfect Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee votes on September 18 for the host city for the Summer Games of 1996, and every whisper you hear confirms Athens as ante-post favourites. The tide is turning Athens's way, you hear. Someone hissed at me in the bar: "The boss of Adidas now believes it will be Athens." That is practically a papal blessing.

There are reservations about Athens, but the point is that there are far more reservations about everywhere else: Atlanta, in the United States, would represent the too-obvious acceptance of naked commercialism; Toronto's bid is marred by a strong anti-Games lobby in that city; Melbourne is in the wrong hemisphere for a summertime summer; nobody has taken Belgrade with much seriousness, and the name of Manchester — well, even with the support of the Princess Royal, it is a teeny bit short of romantic appeal.

Not that the city is quite geared to becoming the centre of world attention for three weeks — not yet, anyway. If Athens gets the nod, they say they will spend \$3 billion on city improvements: a new airport, work on the metro, and a periphereque. For all of this, they hope to get an EC subsidy: perhaps, they were saying this week, as much as 50 per cent. *Nice to know that we will all be paying for the Athens Olympics: we're all Europeans now, you know.*

Striking it lucky

Athens is a place where the unexpected is pretty much routine, so I am unsurprised to learn that a Greek businessman has won the football pools two weeks running, in each case predicting 13 results with complete accuracy. He has won

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

100 million drachmas. This is still quite a lot in pounds, being a third of a million. He will not release his name: this omission is a sensible precaution against the evil eye. He has very little knowledge of football: Vassilis Zikos, who owns the betting shop, explained: "He simply enjoys playing and bases his forecast mostly on computer calculations, but also on forecasts given by my shop."

Longest driver

I hear of a most bizarre version of the tradition golfers' long-driving competition that took place last week as a prelude to the TEC Players championship, which is one of the hottest events on the women's European golf tour. The ever-magnificent Laura Davies was candidate No. 1. She was opposed by a male touring pro called David J. Russell, who is six inches taller than she and with a good deal more muscle, and also by Andy Robinson, who is the world champion one-armed golfer. Davies's best effort was 295 yards, or about three football pitches. Russell pipped her with 315 yards. Robinson's best effort was 241 yards, but as he pointed out, had he possessed two arms, his distance would, quite obviously, have been 482 yards.

Sponsored style

This column has a passion for bizarre sponsorships, but really, I will be surprised if we ever top this one. Mighty Barnet, non-League football's finest and favourites to win the GM Vauxhall Conference, have attracted a sponsorship from Yves St Laurent. Staff and players at the club that stands hard by High Barnet tube now dress in St Laurent slacks and blazers.

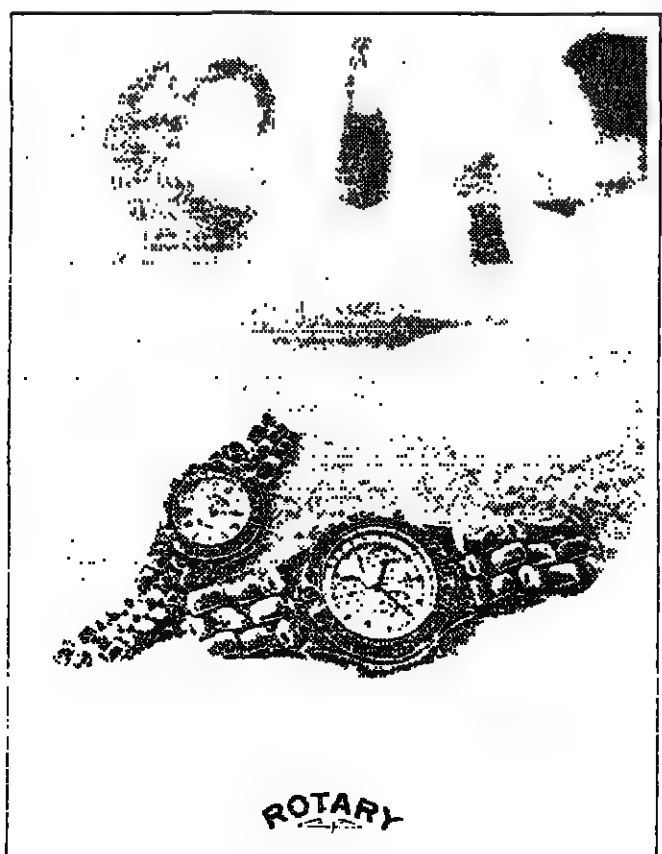
A sticky wicket

Argentina's Davis Cup tennis squad is preparing for a crucial match by playing tennis on a cricket pitch. They must travel to Sydney, and from September 21 to 23 they will play Australia in a World group semi-final — on grass. So they have moved to the Hurlingham Club in Buenos Aires, and taken over the cricket-pitch. Their non-playing captain, Alejandro Gaitiker, explained: "It is not quite like lawn, but it is the next best thing. We started arranging things right after we beat the West Germans in April, but when we came round to starting practice here, the lawn courts were unusable, and the club officers had to improvise three courts for us on a cricket pitch." I am shocked by all this. If the courts are on the square, it could mean another war.

The form guide

British racehorse trainers live in the domain of uncertainty, assessing a horse's work with such imprecise terms as "seems to be moving quite nicely" or "still feeling that leg". Elsewhere in the world, trainers believe life and horses can be reduced to hard figures, and the Japanese have invented a method of making these figures still harder and more immediately available than ever before. Many racing cultures believe that the clock is the secret of all truth and meaning. The Japanese Racing Association have introduced a device called the Advanced Lap Time Information System (or ALIS), and it operates on the same bar code reading system as a supermarket. The bar code is fixed to saddle cloths: bar code readers pick this up and record the time for every furlong the horse gallops, also recording the horse's distance from the running rail. The name is flashed onto a display board at the training track for all the world to see and trainers can get print-outs about the beast's performance.

ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.



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Athens, the front-runner in the race for the 1996 Olympic Games, puts in a final spurt as the IOC prepares to cast its votes

A feast of claptrap fit for Olympian gods

Athens

I AM up to my ears in claptrap. I have had claptrap for breakfast, lunch and tea. For supper, I had claptrap, with humbug for afters. I have had claptrap as a nightcap and claptrap as a treat between meals. Tonight, I have a date: I shall go out with the lads and get completely clapped.

The reason for this exotic diet is the Athens Olympic bid. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) votes on the host city for the 1996 Olympic Games on September 18, and Athens is in the middle of the final frenzies of vote-catching. I have been invited out here to witness this tailenders' slog, and I must say, it is jolly nice to be back in Athens.

This is the sentimental favourite for the 1996 Games, but the race is by no means a laydown for the Athenians. Atlanta, in the States, has almost as good a chance, and Melbourne is a useful looking third favourite. Toronto is not out of it, and even Manchester and Belgrade have their backers.

Each candidate has different cards to play. Atlanta offers money: a fortune to be made from East Coast prime-time television, money the IOC could spend on all kinds of fine things, if it wanted. Melbourne offers what would be only the second Games to be held in the southern hemisphere. Toronto offers north American clout without a whiff of United States bias. Manchester can offer the support of the Princess Royal.

Athens has a fair number of bad points. The city is full of smog. The Greek capacity to organise major events (not to mention a drink-up in a taverna) does not have the world's entire confidence. There is the question of governmental instability. It was only in 1974 that the colonels were toppled. There is terrorism, and Greece's poor record at dealing with it.

But Athens can play the Claptrap Card, and it is doing so for all it is worth. The modern Olympic Games were founded on the romantic Hellenism of Baron de



COMMENT

SIMON BARNES

Coubertin. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens in 1896. I have been told this every hour on the hour for the past 48. Now, they keep telling me, 100 years on, we come to the time when the Olympic ideal must be renewed.

"We must purge the Olympic Games for all of humanity. The Olympic ideal must be purged in the waters of the river that flows through Olympia itself." So said Fanni Pelli Petralia, Greece's deputy minister of culture, and as fine a purveyor of claptrap as you could wish to meet.

She spoke of the three evils of the modern Olympics: doping, terrorism and commercialisation. She didn't mention cant, which is

at least as nasty as commercialisation.

The event was a symposium on the Olympic ideal, and 30-odd past medal winners turned up for it. Touching occasion, nice people, and a faint odour of self-congratulation in the air. We had a belting and bespectacled Bob Beamon, who spoke charmingly if incoherently, interrupting his speech to greet the Soviet former high jumper, Valery Brumel. "Come here, I need to hug you because you are a great athlete."

We had all the stuff about brotherhood of man, and we heard that there are no whites or blacks or browns or yellows, no capitalists or socialists or communists — we are all just human beings and

we must learn to co-operate.

Jolly true and all that: but had nobody present noticed that the Olympics Games is the biggest festival of jingoism that ever takes place during times of peace? Had nobody noticed that a great athlete is, at the time approaching the greatest test, not so much the little friend of all the world as the most self-absorbed human being on the planet?

Had the athletes themselves forgotten that that made them champions? Why did they have to dress it up in talk of dedication and fulfilment? Why did none of them talk about the dedication to victory? The urge to win?

Well, it would have broken the mood of this festival of claptrap. Now, I know that the president of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, had spoken in support of the Greek bid. Apparently, Athens has a still more powerful ally.

The Soviet former gymnast, Larisa Latunina, said: "God Himself wants the Olympic Games to

take place in Greece." Beamon agreed, but gave it a pagan flourish: "The gods are calling!"

The Athenian ticket is the restoration of "true" Olympic ideals. "We have many defects," Nikos Filaretos, the Greek IOC member, said. "But we are deeply romantic... We must accept realities, but only up to a certain point."

One of their ideas is to offer a parallel "artistic" Olympics. It had not occurred to me before that the artistic impulse is based on competitiveness. Or could this be just another slice of claptrap?

What is the point of all this nonsense? Claptrap demeans sport and demeans athletes. Anyone who accepts it is either a fool or a hypocrite. The Olympic Games are not for fellowship, harmony, understanding, joy, goodwill, and a time when peace will guide the planets and love will steer the stars. The Olympic Games are just bloody sport. It is the best versus the best, and that needs no apology whatsoever.

Sport stands for itself. It is enough on its own. It inspires us, not because of any phony notion of brotherhood, but because the best versus the best is a compelling spectacle. Great competitions, great competitors, great victories and great defeats fill us with joy, with rage, with admiration, with laughter, with contempt, with inspiration: with all kinds of things. That is why we watch it. That is why I like to write about it. Its competitors need no dressing up as saints. Sport is there to be enjoyed, revelled in.

True, it is exploited with utter ruthlessness by politicians and money-men. There is much wrong with sport, but then sport never was a safe place, immune from the evils of the world. The point is to fight the evils; not to cover them up with humbug and cant.

The two favourites for the 1996 Olympics represent two of the evils that surround sport. Athens stands for commercialism. Athens stands for claptrap.

Medals matter more than money to the man who has timed his run into form

Regis bending into perfection

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE first time that John Regis ran the perfect bend was as a centre-forward for Thames Polytechnic. Out of his blocks on the half-way line, he made a diagonal run to the wing with momentum so great that it took him behind a group of spectators on the touchline and back into play. Into the home straight, head down for goal, he went past the last defender. Score! "Right into the roof of the net," he recalled.

"An Arsenal scout came over and said that he would be watching me from then on," Arsenal, Charlton, Newcastle. Regis played for them all as a youth. "I thought I was an excellent footballer, but you can have the best game of your life and still lose. I wanted a sport where I could control my own destiny." So his cousin, Cyril, was left to carry the Regis name in football. "I've never had any regrets at the decision I took," the new European 200 metres champion said.

Disappointments, yes. In the world championships in Rome three years ago, he lost concentration just short of the line. "World champion at 199 metres" was how he described himself. In February, he was second in the Commonwealth Games in Auckland. Like Passarel and the North Korean football team, Regis was building a reputation for glorious failure. He had triumphed in the world indoor championships and European Cup, but these are camouflage competitions: the genuine titles had started to look beyond him.

After finishing last in the 1986 Commonwealth final, he turned to John Isaacs, a coach with a growing reputation. Together they learned the value of controlled training. Regis had won a bronze medal in the world championships, but the following year finished next to last in his Olympic semi-final.

He had turned an ankle before the world championships, enforcing a rest. "The ankle which everyone thought had ruined my chances had helped me — I was not just physically fit, but mentally fit too," Regis said. He trained from October through to May for the following summer. By the time the Olympics came round he was, as he put it, "brain dead". After that, Isaacs agreed to give Regis a break from training every five weeks. "I've learned my lesson from Olympic year and I know that it is possible to train too hard," Regis said.

His capacity for work is, nevertheless, his strength. "He is one of those guys who gets



A clean pair of heels on, in the case of John Regis, one clean heel: it was the view many European rivals had of him in Split

JOHN REGIS

Born: Lewisham, southeast London, October 13, 1956. Club: Belgrave Harriers, Cooch John Isaacs. Height: 5ft 11in. Weight: 155lb. Career Progression at 200 metres: 1982: 22.6sec; 1983: 22.0; 1984: 21.8; 1985: 20.7; 1986: 20.4; 1987: 20.1; 1988: 20.3; 1989: 20.5; 1990: 20.1. Championship record at 200 metres: Olympic Games: 1988, semi-finalist. World championships: 1987, third. European championships: 1990, first. Commonwealth Games: 1986, eighth; 1990, second. World indoor championships: 1988, first. European indoor championships: 1987, third; 1989, second.

200 metres and 4 x 400 metres, silver in the sprint relay and bronze in the 100 metres. Onlookers were impressed by his 400 metres leg which, at 43.93 seconds, was faster even than Roger Black, the individual champion. "The first Briton I have seen capable of dominating the Americans," Sebastian Coe said of Regis.

"He could run 43.5 seconds and that is the event he should go for in the Olympic Games," Frank Dick, Britain's director of coaching, told Isaacs.

Isaacs will try to persuade Regis but, rest easy Black and the Americans, he does not wish to be persuaded. "At this

point in time I can't see myself moving up to 400 metres because I'm enjoying the 100 and 200 tremendously," Regis said. "I got as much satisfaction out of running 10.07 seconds for the 100 as I did in winning the 200. I want to be the first British guy to run under 20 seconds."

In the same way that Kris Akabusi profited from switching events, Isaacs believes that Regis would too. "With Michael Johnson in the 200 metres at the world championships and Olympic Games, you will need 19.8 or 19.7 to win," Isaacs said.

Were they boxers, Johnson and Regis would not be allowed near each other. Regis, his muscular upper body packaged like an American footballer in uniform, is 14 and a half stone; Johnson, more than two stones lighter, glides bolt upright, cutting the wind rather than bludgeoning it as Regis does. Not that they have seen much of them together. Johnson, the new world No. 1, has been prolific on the Grand Prix circuit. Regis went quietly about his business of preparing for Split, rarely venturing out of Britain.

"I don't want to be a Grand Prix athlete. I want to make sure I perform well in major championships," Regis said. Linford Christie got away with it, winning the European 100 metres but only after his reputation had been tarnished by a string of Grand Prix defeats. Even after Split, Regis is taking care not to devalue himself. European champions can get rich quick after their victories, but Regis has appeared in neither of this week's big meetings, in Koblenz or Athens.

"I don't want to be known as a guy who runs for money, even though the money is tremendous," Regis said. "I could earn a lot now that I'm European champion, but I don't think I could do myself justice. I couldn't perform to the best of my ability straight after the European championships and I wouldn't want to go out and run 20.8 seconds or something like that."

Regis said he has learnt the value of picking his races. He will run in Rieti tomorrow and in the McVitie's Challenge in Sheffield next weekend to wind down his season. "If I am to run well I cannot afford to run all over the place," he said. Why spoil your Cup final for a game of five-a-side?

Regis said he has learnt the value of picking his races. He will run in Rieti tomorrow and in the McVitie's Challenge in Sheffield next weekend to wind down his season. "If I am to run well I cannot afford to run all over the place," he said. Why spoil your Cup final for a game of five-a-side?

MOTOR RACING

McLaren power should edge Senna nearer title

By JOHN BLUNDEN

TRADITIONALLY, Monza provides a welcome end-of-season party atmosphere at the conclusion of a rigorous and tiring European racing season for Formula One drivers. Nevertheless, there will be a lot of work still to be done and high stakes to play for, when the teams leave Italy tomorrow evening at the Italian grand prix. Ayrton Senna will still be heading the world championship points table because Alain Prost, his closest rival, is 13 points adrift of him, but there will be two more races to contest in Europe — in Portugal and Spain — when Ferrari may just be able to give Prost the edge over his McLaren rival when their cars are in race trim.

The reverse is likely to be the case, however, this weekend. Even with its three chicanes, which have effectively eliminated the high-speed, multi-car, slipstreaming battles of the past at a cost of disrupting the grand prix's racing rhythm, Monza is still very much a power circuit, offering a 155mph lap-speed from cars in qualifying trim.

The Marlboro McLaren team, which used what Honda refer to as "version five" of their RA100E V10 engine for their most recent success in Belgium, had the benefit of further fine-tuning of its management system when Senna and his colleague, Gerhard Berger, drove out onto the track for first practice yesterday.

Anything less than another victory by the team (Senna has already recorded five wins this season, although Berger has yet to open his score) will be considered something of a setback.

Nigel Mansell, who seems to have patched-up his row with the Ferrari team after his withdrawal from the Belgian race, will be hoping that, on race afternoon, he will get away to a clean start in his own property set-up race car, not the spare, and be able to give his many



supporters among the tifosi something to savour.

Senna recorded the fastest lap time in the first practice session yesterday, but Mansell was the second quickest around Monza. Each set their best times within a minute of each other late in the session.

Overnight, the McLaren and Ferrari teams were sharing the first four places in the line-up with Jean Alesi's Tyrrell-Ford in sixth place between the Williams-Renaults of Thierry Boutsen and Riccardo Patrese.

The best qualifying day for a long time by the Camel Lotus team ended with Derek Warwick tenth quickest behind the two Benetton-Fords, and Martin Donnelly twelfth, despite having only one run on qualifying tyres following a spin-off into a gravel trap.

"We had six days of testing here," Warwick said, "and the hard work is beginning to pay off."

During the next few days Frank Williams will be selling his drivers Riccardo Patrese and Thierry Boutsen whether or not he will require their services next year. "I have kept them waiting long enough," he admitted at Monza.

Williams, who says he came close to signing both Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell during

the past few weeks, but lost on each occasion, has also seen his hopes of signing Jean Alesi dashed.

Although Alesi had signed an agreement three months ago to join Williams, moving from the Tyrrell Ford team, he announced after practice that he is now determined not to honour the agreement, and to replace Mansell at Ferrari.

Williams also has the highest regard for Martin Brundle, who would only be collected back to Formula One by a drive with a top team.

Mansell, meanwhile, removed all remaining speculation over his future as a grand prix driver by stating that his decision to retire from Formula One, which he took after the British grand prix at Silverstone, will be carried through.

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES (first session): 1. A Senna (McLaren Honda), 1m 22.972sec; 2. N Mansell (Benetton Ford), 1m 23.047; 3. D Warwick (Lotus), 1m 23.150; 4. A Prost (Ferrari), 1m 23.157; 5. R Patrese (Benetton Ford), 1m 23.160; 6. T Boutsen (Williams Renault), 1m 23.161; 7. M Brundle (Williams Renault), 1m 23.162; 8. M Donnelly (Benetton Ford), 1m 23.163; 9. J Alesi (Tyrrell Ford), 1m 23.164; 10. J Herbert (Ferrari), 1m 23.165; 11. P Barrichello (Ferrari), 1m 23.166; 12. M Senna (McLaren Honda), 1m 23.167; 13. M Brundle (Williams Renault), 1m 23.168; 14. P Martin (McLaren Honda), 1m 23.169; 15. N Kariyama (Japan), 1m 23.170.

ROWING

Sick Redgrave misses Amsterdam test race

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S newly formed top coxless pair of Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent will not be racing at the Amsterdam regatta this weekend. Redgrave went into hospital with food poisoning last Friday and was released on Tuesday, expressing his disappointment that he would miss the final international event before the world championships in Tasmania, which start on October 29 to November 4.

The prospective world championship eight, although entered, will also miss Amsterdam, as Brian Armstrong, the international rowing manager, has proved the opposition as insufficiently strong to warrant the trip. But the coxed and coxed fours, regarded as medal prospects for Tasmania, will race on the Bosbaan, as will the quad scull and single sculler, Rorie Henderson.

CYCLING

Cramp threat to Farrell's Trophy hope

IF STEVE Farrell can steer clear of cramp tomorrow he should win the Star Trophy road racing competition based on ten events this season (Peter Bryan writes). He heads the series with a seven-point lead over Simon Hempsall and needs to finish either second or third should Hempsall win tomorrow's final event, the 50 mile Tour of the Peak, which starts and finishes at Buxton and includes the one-in-five climb of Winnats Pass.

Farrell, back from last weekend's world amateur road race championship in Japan, where Hempsall was a team colleague, cramped up in the 90 heat there and was concerned that he may be similarly affected in Melbourne. "It's happened several times this year," the Stoke-on-Trent pharmacist who is unaware of the cause, said.

WATER SKIING

Ameljanchik's magic tricks

By JANE ELLIOTT

AMONG the medal favourites at this weekend's European championships in Toulouse, France, is Marina Ameljanchik — petite, blonde, determined and from the Soviet Union. Unlike Western skiers, she has not had any new water-skis for seven years. Her equipment is battered, crudely repaired and has carried her to countless medals.

The Soviet sports ministry pays her training costs and she earns extra royalties teaching youngsters at the Olympia Institute in her home town of Minsk. Before perestroika, Soviet athletes used to get special privileges — a bigger flat,

a car, access to foreign exchange. Now, they receive only a food allowance. Yet Ameljanchik is quick to point out that of all the 15 countries she has visited in the course of competition, the Soviet Union is still her favourite.

She took up the sport when she was aged 15, after seeing an event broadcast on television. Her natural ability had been honed by her own desire to improve by the time she was spotted by Victor Novozilov, the national team trainer.

In her first competition, Ameljanchik finished third overall and in tracks. Her short, light build is ideal for the trick

event and she is now ranked in the world's top five, but it works against her in the slalom and jump events.

In the pursuit of excellence, Ameljanchik spends four hours each day in the gym, which she does not enjoy, an hour touring the water and then practices on a trampoline. In the colder months, when British skiers flock to Florida, the Soviets train on indoor swimming pools, using pulley systems.

With her battered old ski, the moomba wetsuit that the British champion, Karen Morse, gave to her, and the hopes of her nation behind her, Ameljanchik is likely to win the European trick title once again.

The strong Soviet presence at the European championships will put pressure on the British in the competition for the team title. However, Philippa Roberts, from Manchester, and John Batteley, of Scarborough, are favourites to take both slalom titles. With the potential of Shawn Bronson, Andrew Rooke and Paul Studd in the men's overall competition, the Soviets will not have an easy task.

BSB makes a live wire out of Barrett

By KEN LAWRENCE

THESE are happy days for John Barrett, the one-time Davis Cup player and manager and for long the junior partner to the BBC's Dan Maskell every Wimbledon. Now Barrett has slipped out of the Maskell shadow and into the sunshine at Flushing Meadow this week, where he is commenting live for BSB each day upon the United States open tennis championships.

Live is the crucial word, for Barrett is a fervent supporter of live sport on television. He began his BBC career working on recorded highlights programmes, but has, what he calls, "very strong views" about things being seen as they happen.

Other than the odd exceptional circumstance, he does not think the British public cares overmuch for recordings. "To us, sport is always about who might win. It is the expectation of the contest, man against man, team against team... people striving. In my view, you have to be very, very keen on a sport to watch it on television when you know the result," he says. "The tennis highlights have been put on at the most awful

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN VIEW

times. The BBC says the figures are bad but (a) the results are known, and (b) they go out at midnight. During the Wimbledon fortnight and Queen's week, when it is shown live, the viewing figures are good."

Although BSB "poached" Gerry Williams, the other half of the BBC's "Des and Gerry" show from Wimbledon, Barrett is not lost to the BBC. He will work for both the terrestrial and satellite channels at Wimbledon and Queen's.

He stresses his great loyalty to the BBC, who he joined in 1971. "I learned my trade there, and they have an extremely happy team," the man, who was once in charge of the LTA tennis training scheme, said. There was, he insists, no feeling that he was waiting for dear men's boots as Dan Maskell went on and on... and on.

"Dan is 82 now and it is wonderful that he is still continuing. I have learned so much from him. The great thing about Dan is his reverence for the sport and its performers and he has an unrivalled knowledge. He makes the odd mistake now and then, of course he does. So do I. No, I love working with him."

At BSB — whose exclusive screening today (4pm to midnight) sharing with The Great Race and tomorrow (the men's final from 8.45pm) complements 14 consecutive days of live action from Flushing Meadow and a first for British viewers — John has linked again with the Graham Fry, who was the man producing the BBC highlights when Barrett first joined the company. "We know each other well. He is a very good producer. When I was considering the BSB offer, I enquired how they planned their tennis coverage. 'Most of it live' Graham reported, so I said immediately 'You've got me!'"

Barrett also reckons himself the only person to have worked for all three of the main channels in Australia: Seven, Nine and Ten. "All carry advertising and Seven is probably the best.

We don't want quite as 'busy' a programme as these are and as in America where the time restraints imposed by advertising means they really have to pack the information in."

Sharing Barrett's views that it is never the same when you know the result, I will not, therefore, reveal which picture the England batsman, David Gower, chooses in The Great Picture Chase. Being given £500 and BBC to buy something for the BSB is hardly sport, but it

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: Graham Taylor talks about the future for the England football team on BBC Grandstand together with racing from Haydock, the Essex Brothel, touring car championship and the European Open golf at Sunningdale (BSB1, 12.30 to 5pm). TOMORROW: The men's final from Flushing Meadow as a must, if you have BSB. If not, there is the final round from Sunningdale and the Italian grand prix (BBC2, 12.30 to 6.35pm). BBC2 is re-showing its Masters portrait of Sir Leonard Hutton, who died on Thursday, (8.25pm). MONDAY: Is Chelsea's Kerry Dixon the man for England? Sportsweek Extra will tell you (ITV, 7pm to 2.30). TUESDAY: Eurosport have five football from Berlin (Hera v World

does provide a wonderful insight into what gives the elegant left-hander his inner calm and that supposed laid-back attitude.

He sought a wild life painting that "truly evokes Africa for me" and visions of the African game parks, no doubt, will help to tranquillize the nerve ends as he waits to be tried in Melbourne and Sydney and other places this winter. The Great Picture Chase is on BBC1 tomorrow (5.30pm).

Masters XI) at 7pm and Nicky Home presents the first of BSB's new American football series (8pm). WEDNESDAY: England's World Cup heroes take on Hungary. The game is live on BSB (7.30pm) followed by Scotland's European championship match against Romania. BSB have highlights of both games. Thursday's highlights (10.25pm to 11.25) and Eurosport have their European championship highlights from 11 to midnight. THURSDAY: Four television races from Doncaster are each worth more than £25,000 (Channel 4, 2.30 to 4.30pm). FRIDAY: The second "semi" of the Europa Cup will see the German and Spanish sides meet in a final. TUESDAY: Eurosport have five football from Berlin (Hera v World

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Becker faces Open showdown

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds sound a note of caution against established powers

By KEITH MACKLIN

BEFORE the Lancashire Cup game at Naughton Park last week, people were asking the inevitable question about who can stop Wigan from repeating last season's runaway championship success. After Wigan's 24-22 win, the question has been amended, with Wigan bracketed alongside Leeds with an equal aura of invincibility.

Had the question been posed before the first round of the Yorkshire Cup, there would have been claims from east of the Pennines that Leeds, having signed the New Zealand full back, John Gallagher, and the skillful scrum half, Paul Harkin, would at last challenge the supremacy of Wigan and Widnes.

However, when Harkin's former club, Bradford Northern, heavily defeated Leeds, only to be similarly beaten themselves by Castleford in

the second round, opinions were hastily revised.

It is hard to look beyond the two top clubs of the last decade in seeking this season's championship winners - yet notes of caution and warning have come from all sides. Garry Schofield, who had an outstanding tour of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand as vice-captain, says that Leeds learned a lot from the defeat against Bradford Northern.

"We were beaten in the forwards," he said. "If we can get our pack and our tackling right, we have the pace and skill in the backs to beat anybody. We're desperate for success: it's time the major honours came back to Yorkshire."

This last sentiment of Schofield's was echoed by Lee Crooks, now at Castleford. After Castleford's emphatic defeat of Bradford Northern

last Sunday, Crooks said that Castleford are ready to make a genuine challenge this season after years of floundering to deceive.

"Our defence was great against Bradford, and we seem to have got it right at last under our coach, Darryl van de Velde."

Any championship challenge from Bradford Northern would come from their powerful pack, which has now lost Kelvin Skerrett to Wigan, and after the Castleford debacle, the Odsal side went back badly in the betting. St Helens will have a lot of backers, and have a lot of good players, but their opening form has been disappointing.

Which brings us back to Wigan. At Central Park, John Monie, never a man who likes to trumpet from the house-tops, adopts a typically cautious attitude.

"Widnes looked a good side when they beat us in the Charity Shield and Lancashire Cup, and the biggest threat to us will come from them," he said. "But don't go rubbing Leeds after just one defeat against Bradford Northern."

David Ward has got a fine bunch of players at Headingley, and they will be smarting to win something tangible after going so close in the championship last season.

Wigan's challenge may depend on whether Elly Hanley survives his pelvic injury and plays enough games for them.

In the second division, the outlook is much the same, with Leigh and Salford from west of the Pennines looking odds-on favourites to make a quick return to the top division.

Away from the championship scene, the shadows lengthen from Australia. Hanley has said that he wants to be fit for the first international at Wembley on October 27. Mike Gregory, captain of the 1990 tour, is definitely out with a serious finger injury, and other senior international players are having their fitness levels closely watched.

GUIDE TO THE SEASON

BRADFORD NORTHERN They may regret selling John Hurrell to Wigan and disturbing a splendid pack. Karl Fawcett, David Hobbs and company will produce some good results.

CASTLEFORD The most attractive broadminded in the business, but getting tired of not making it to the final. They have a lot of good players with their defence, but could, at last, produce the goods in all competitions.

PEATHERSTONE ROVERS Any side coached by Peter Fox will be full of determination, grit and the will to win. They may not figure in the title hunt, but contenders will not wish to meet them.

HULL The loss of the coach, Brian Smith, may put the brake on the Boulevard revival. They may seem under to meet the challenge, but certainly lived the club in the last two seasons. Rank outsiders for the championship, but may prosper in the cups.

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS On the return to the first division, Roger Milward and his men may settle for a safe place in the table. If Rovers are not defeated from the start, they should survive with ease.

LEEDS Those with Yorkshire at heart, or who want to see an end to progressive domination, will be behind big-spenders Leeds. John Gallagher will settle down, and there is so much talent at Headingley that they look top-four material.

OLDHAM Another promoted side that will not protect itself from relegation. Tony Barrow may keep it in mid-table, and Oldham can over-

turn the best in one-off trophy games.

ROCHDALE HORNETS The Hornets coach, Alan Agar, and his directors were honest when they said that promotion last season had come too soon, before they had had time to spend and build up a first division squad. This may seem just a case of time to come.

ST HELENS Could be among the leaders, but have started the season badly. The coach, Mike McClellan, has got leading players on his books, but injuries and lack of confidence have handicapped the early games.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES The surprise team of last season, who hung on to first division status against all predictions. Gary Hetherington is one of the best movers in the league, but there may again be a first division relegation.

WARRINGTON Did solidly to win the Lancashire Cup last season and were relegated without the leadership of Mike Gregory, they may not reach such heights this time around.

WIDNES Have played brilliant attacking football from the start of season, with Jonathan Davies in magnificent form, and Tait, Devaux, Currier and Wright forming a powerful back line. But they will miss Martin Offiah if his injury is as bad as predicted.

WIGAN The favourites once more, and though great players to overcome the potential loss of Elly Hanley, the list includes Gregory, Lyons, Edwards, Riff, Platt and Goodway. Need one say more?

Widnes open without Offiah

THE true strength of the Widnes backline may be assessed at Bradford tomorrow, when Widnes tackle Bradford Northern knowing that their wing, Martin Offiah, will be out of the park for several weeks (Keith Macklin writes).

The Widnes back line is full of international talent, pace and skill, but there are those who wonder whether the finishing power of Offiah, and the defences he causes for defenders, are an integral part of the Widnes attack.

Widnes have now overtaken Wigan as favourites for the Stewarts & Lloyds championship after beating them twice in early season matches, and they should start the new league season with a win against a Bradford side which was shat-

tered last week at Valley Parade by Castleford.

Castleford's early form has established them with Leeds as probable title contenders from the start. That claim, which was severely tested at Warrington, where the Lancashire Cup-holders, even without the injured Mike Gregory, are extremely hard to beat.

Leeds' visit to Oldham, and may recover their pride after their home reverse against Bradford Northern in the Yorkshire Cup, by beating a promoted team which has yet to show signs of knitting together. Two pre-season matches, and two pre-season matches, and they should start the new league season with a win against a Bradford side which was shat-

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Dayjar, seen here landing the Temple Stakes at Sandown in May, attempts to tighten his grip on the sprint championship at Haydock today (2.45)

Zigaura to lose maiden tag at the highest level

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

DAVID Elsworth has already demonstrated his versatility to Irish racing this year by winning the Irish Grand National with Desert Orchid and the Irish 1,000 Guineas with In The Groove.

Tomorrow, at the Curragh, the Whitbury trainer can capture one of the country's most significant juvenile events, the

group one Moylagre Stud Stakes, with Zigaura.

Although still a maiden after four races, Zigaura has been competing in top company, her races including a second to Chance in the Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket and a close fourth behind Only Yours in the Lower Stakes at York.

There are seven home-trained

runners including two each from the stables of Vincent O'Brien and Jim Bolger. Capricious, one of the O'Brien pair, disappointed behind Mac's Imp in the Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes but stepped up at that performance when competing in the Curragh last time out.

The pick of the Irish, though, may be Off Glass, a daughter of Affirmed, who created a favourable impression when winning with ease on her debut at Phoenix Park last Sunday.

English stables make a stronger numerical attack on this afternoon's GPA National Stakes with the trio who filled the first three places in the Washington Singer Stakes at Newbury last month slugging again.

Heart Of Darkness, from the stable which won this race 12 months ago with Dashing Blade, emerged the 1½-length winner at Newbury and, even on 3½ odds, should confirm the form with Curragh.

Malvernico was the first of Jim Bolger's youngsters to win this term, breaking 60 seconds at Leopardstown on St. Patrick's Day. He has kept his form well, and is a double group three

winner.

Bolger believes that the seven furlongs of the National Stakes will suit him better than the shorter distances over which he has been competing so far and he could be the danger to Heart Of Darkness.

Both group one races at the Curragh this weekend will be televised live, BBC1 and Channel 4 both show today's GPA National Stakes while tomorrow's Moylagre Stud Stakes is on BBC2.

Topical winners led by Blue Aeroplane

By RICHARD EVANS

PUNTERS who ignore the form book and find winners by using a sharp pen, or relying on outrageous coincidences were in their element yesterday at Kempton Park's Battle of Britain race day.

The aptly-named Blue Aeroplane was a popular choice for the Capital House Spirit Nursery Handicap and, minutes before a real spirit performed a fly-past over the Sunbury course in memory of the "new" Paul Cole-trained colt, he was a stylish win.

From a favourable high draw, Richard Quinn always had Blue Aeroplane nicely positioned behind Marching Post before taking the lead with a furious to go. The 2½-length winning distance did not reflect the ease of the victory.

Clare Court had the occasional touch of the day in the opening National Breakdown Handicap. The Ian Balding-trained filly is a daughter of Giant Of Gold, after whom yesterday's form was named.

Seamus O'Garra, Balding's accomplished claimer, stepped over the front-running Nikitas before taking the lead entering the straight and never looked like being caught.

The mere appearance of Saint South in the Mulkern, Chertsey Lock Stakes should have been enough to alert the sharp-eyed punter. Michaela Kauffman, a former assistant to the legendary Vincent O'Brien, seldom makes the long journey from Co. Meath to these shores. His last visit to Kempton was in 1978 and, like yesterday, it proved victorious.

With his favourite, Johnnie proving a big disappointment after having even chances three furlongs from home, Start Stopped swooped a furlong from home to win by 1½ lengths.

The colt earned a 50-1 quote for the 2,000 Guineas, from Victor Chandler and will now be aimed for the Carter Millers.

Apart from those who knew that Silver Braid had been working favourably at home with some of David Elsworth's most promising two-year-olds, there was little to point towards her chances in the Mulkern Handicap.

However, the 14-1 shot displayed an impressive nose of foot to sweep past half a dozen horses in the straight.

To add to the list of unlikely winners, the Mulkern filly, who cost £70,000 at the Kilmarnock sales, belongs to Mr and Mrs Les Ward, sponsors of yesterday's race.

The Whitbury trainer confirmed he is having support from Cash Associates to aid the American as ride sponsor of his horses' next season. But the outcome hinges on whether Steve Causton decides to accept a full-time retention with Sheikh Mohammed and Al-Sayid.

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CURRAGH FIELDS

Going: good. Draw: no advantage.

3.0 GPA NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1: 2-Y-O: £25,000; 7f) (11 runners)

1. 102 CAPEWOOD 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 2. 101 HEART OF DARKNESS 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 3. 103 OFF GLASS 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 4. 104 MALVERNICO 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 5. 105 SOUTHERN ROCKET 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 6. 106 SOUTHERN ROCKET 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 7. 107 SOUTHERN ROCKET 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 8. 108 SOUTHERN ROCKET 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 9. 109 SOUTHERN ROCKET 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 10. 110 SOUTHERN ROCKET 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 11. 111 SOUTHERN ROCKET 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11.

3.40 MOYLAGRE STUD STAKES (Group 1: 2-Y-O: £25,000; 6f) (9 runners)

1. 112 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 2. 113 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 3. 114 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 4. 115 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 5. 116 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 6. 117 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 7. 118 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 8. 119 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 9. 120 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11.

3.40 MOYLAGRE STUD STAKES (Group 1: 2-Y-O: £25,000; 6f) (9 runners)

1. 121 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 2. 122 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 3. 123 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 4. 124 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 5. 125 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 6. 126 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 7. 127 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 8. 128 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 9. 129 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 10. 130 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11.

3.40 MOYLAGRE STUD STAKES (Group 1: 2-Y-O: £25,000; 6f) (9 runners)

1. 131 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 2. 132 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 3. 133 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 4. 134 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 5. 135 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 6. 136 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 7. 137 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 8. 138 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 9. 139 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 10. 140 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11.

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1. 161 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 2. 162 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 3. 163 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 4. 164 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 5. 165 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 6. 166 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 7. 167 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 8. 168 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 9. 169 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 10. 170 AFRICAN DANCE 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11.

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3.40 MOYLAGRE STUD STAKES (Group 1: 2-Y-O: £25,000; 6f) (9 runners)

SOUTHWELL

Going: standard. Draw: no advantage.

2.30 WESTMINSTER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,647; 1m) (18 runners)

1. 201 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 2. 202 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 3. 203 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 4. 204 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 5. 205 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 6. 206 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 7. 207 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 8. 208 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 9. 209 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 10. 210 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11.

2.30 WESTMINSTER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,647; 1m) (18 runners)

1. 211 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 2. 212 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 3. 213 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 4. 214 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 5. 215 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11. 6. 216 GALE DANCER 11 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-

Executive Editor David Brewerton

BUSINESS

LIT back in black but omits dividend

By OUR CITY STAFF

LIT Holdings, the stricken financial services group, returned to a pre-tax profit of £800,000 in first half of this year under the control of Christopher Castleman, the former head of Hill Samuel, after crashing to a loss of £7.9 million in last six months of 1989.

However, the result is well below last year's interim profit of £6.1 million and the company cannot pay dividends on either its ordinary or preference shares due to the continuing deficit on its distributable reserve.

Last year there was an interim dividend of 3.75p. In the half year, the company has run a sale of most of its assets, apart from its two main operating subsidiaries, Johnson Fry, the Business Expansion Scheme sponsor, and Litam, the American futures clearing house.

Debts have fallen from £51 million to £28 million. The company has also made £1 million by switching between dollar and sterling borrowings.

Mr Castleman said: "This group is in miles better shape than it was six months ago, but we have a great deal of work to be done."

The fall in profits was worst at Litam. This was hit by a \$5.8 million debt after the stock market crash last October, which, in turn, started a cash crisis, only settled by a \$5 million injection from the British group.

Profits in the half slumped 92 per cent to just £400,000 as the company struggled to re-gain business.

Futures volumes have been lower in Chicago this year and dealers have been settling through the larger houses like Merrill Lynch after the collapse of Drexel Burnham Lambert.

Mr Castleman said: "The fact Litam made a profit at all does them credit."

Mr Castleman said LIT would retain both its main companies despite the debt problem. He said: "If LIT is to recover, it has to be on the back of Litam and Fry being retained and realising their proper value."

He denied that the company was planning any immediate reconstruction but said that one was needed before the company could start paying the preference dividend.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8940 (-0.0130)

W German mark 2.9669 (-0.0004)

Exchange index 94.4 (-0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1638.5 (-1.4)

FT-SE 100 2122.9 (+2.0)

New York Dow Jones 2617.57 (+21.28)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23962.07 (+150.16)

Closing Prices ... Page 37

Major indices and major changes ... Page 38

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month Interbank 14 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 14 1/4%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 9 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7 3/8-7 3/4%
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London New York
£ \$1.8940
£ DM2.9669
£ Sfr2.4726
£ FFfr9.9985
£ Yen160.05
£ Index 94.4
ECU 10.66360
ECU 1.43402

GOLD

London Fixing
AM 5388 85 pm 5384 80
close 5388 75-387 55 (204.50-205.00)
New York
Comex 5388 80-389 10*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$30.00 bbl (\$31.10)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 1.8940
Austria Sch 13.76
Belgium Fr 66.75
Canada Cdn 1.31
Denmark Kr 11.48
France Fr 66.75
Germany DM 2.9669
Greece Dr 206.48
Hong Kong \$ 7.79
Italy Lira 200.48
Japan Yen 160.05
Netherlands Gld 3.60
Norway Kr 136.48
Portugal Esc 200.48
South Africa Rd 1.31
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Kr 11.48
Switzerland Fr 9.75
Turkey Lira 1.8940
USA \$ 1.8940
Yugoslavia Dnr 13.76

Notes for small denomination bank only on supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to resident citizens.
Retail Price Index 125.8 (July)

Sterling calm as imminent ERM entry denied

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

JOHN Major's denial that sterling would enter the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System during the European Community finance ministers' meeting this weekend left the currency calm but analysts confused over when the pound will be fixed against continental currencies.

The pound had fallen sharply overnight, mainly due to a £250 million selling order from Japan. This cut the sterling index from Thursday's close of 94.8 to an opening 94.4, but it retained that lower level at the end of the day. Sterling ended 0.6 pence lower against the mark at DM2.9625.

On the BBC radio Today programme yesterday, the chancellor made it clear that he did not foresee any early cut in interest rates. Although monetary indicators had turned sharply down, he said it was not yet clear from retail sales and other measures that demand

was under control. This reinforced the Bank of England's move on Thursday to stop money market interest rates falling much below 15 per cent. Most currency analysts agreed that this should sustain the pound, despite the disappointment over early ERM entry.

Mr Major reiterated that the final condition set by the government for entry would not have been met until Britain's rate of inflation had started to converge with rates on the continent.

Inflation, as measured by the retail price index, is expected to rise through 10 per cent when the August figures are released next Friday. City forecasters expect about 10.3 per cent. This would be equivalent to about 8.8 per cent on the measures used in most ERM countries, where the average inflation rate is less than 4 per cent, but rising.

Since the most recent petrol price rises will not enter the August figures, RPI inflation is expected to rise again in September. Nigel

Rendell, of James Capel, the broker, forecast that petrol would add 0.4 per cent to prices in September and underlying inflation a further 0.5 per cent. Annual RPI growth would, therefore, rise to 10.5 per cent.

This could prove to be the peak, but the headline rate of inflation might not move decisively down before November, when last autumn's rise in mortgage rates will fall out of the reckoning.

The November figures will be issued at about the time the intergovernmental conference on the next stages of European monetary union opens in Rome on December 13, which would be a politically auspicious time for Mr Major to underline Britain's European commitment by putting sterling into the ERM.

The authorities have made it clear, however, that sterling's entry will also depend on the convenience of other member countries. This may require a delay until oil prices stop

gyrating and taking sterling with them, since the ERM has been under pressure recently from the strength of the peseta. The mark has traded near the bottom of its range, but German interest rates are likely to rise.

There is a near consensus among analysts that sterling would enter the ERM at about DM2.95 if entry came soon and that sterling might move around this level in the short term. There is no such consensus over timing. Lily Islam, currency analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, suggests that mid to late October is now the most likely date of entry and that British interest rates might not be cut until November.

But Ian Harnett, of St James's Turnbull, the securities house, said entry would have to be delayed until next year if the inflation condition was to be met. But base rates would need to come down before the year end to avoid recession, putting sterling under pressure.

American jobless rate rises to 5.6%

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

THE unemployment rate in America rose to 5.6 per cent in August, up from 5.5 per cent in July.

At the same time, the number of jobs created fell further, underlining signs of sluggishness in the economy.

The labour department report from the American government is the first official data on economic activity for August.

It is expected to be followed in the coming weeks and months by additional signs of economic weakness in response to the surge in crude oil prices, which have climbed to their highest level in seven years.

Jobs outside the agricultural sector, which are key indicators of the economy's underlying strength, fell by 75,000 last month after falling a revised 89,000 in July, the department report said.

Payrolls rose by 45,000, excluding census workers.

Economists had expected non-farm payrolls to fall by 33,000 jobs, after the revised 89,000 drop in July.

Analysts had expected a 5.5 per cent jobless rate for last month.

The 5.6 per cent unemployment rate in August was the highest since the same figure in August 1988. In March of that year, the rate was 5.7 per cent.

The latest employment report, which economists believe does not yet reflect the impact of the Gulf confrontation, puts added pressure on the Federal Reserve to judge interest rates lower to pump new life into the economy. There are indications, however, that the Fed is reluctant to take any action until the situation in the Middle East stabilises.

Economists have feared that the rise in oil prices after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last month could tilt the economy into a recession, if it is not in one already.

The National Association of Manufacturers said that the rise in oil prices, which has been reflected in a surge in the price of petrol and other oil products, will set off, at worst, a mild recession that is expected to last about eight months.

Saatchi axes preference and ordinary share payout

By MATTHEW BOND

SAATCHI & Saatchi, the advertising agency, is not paying dividends on either its preference or ordinary shares.

Ordinary shareholders were resigned to not receiving a final dividend, after Saatchi passed the interim payout in June and after warnings by Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive.

The news that there would be no payout on the preference shares was unexpected, however, and helped to knock a further 12p off the share price. The shares closed at 50.5p, valuing the company at £81 million.

The first casualty is the dividend on the 6.3 per cent convertible preference issue, due on October 6, which would have cost £4.2 million. The next will be the final dividend on the ordinary shares, due in December.

But the company may still pay the coupon on its 6.75 per cent Euroconvertible preference share issue. Payment is not due until next July.

Of far greater importance is the put option that the issue carries. This is expected to cost Saatchi £211 million when holders exercise that option in 1993.

Funding that option, analysts believe, could necessitate the disposal of one of Saatchi's core advertising agencies.

Saatchi's distributable re-

serves, from which dividends are paid, have been wiped out. At its last year end, Saatchi had £60 million reserves, but losses on the sales of its management consultancy firm erased that.

The biggest loss came at Peterson, the Chicago legal consultancy, sold for an initial \$2 million in June, \$114 million less than it had been bought for three years earlier. Hay, the management consultancy, was sold in June for \$80 million, six years after it was acquired for \$130 million.

Saatchi is also taking a loss on the \$70 million sale of Gartner, a transaction which is expected to be completed this month.

Saatchi could have used its special reserves to pay its dividends. These reserves stood at £565.8 million in the last balance sheet.

However, after a capital restructuring, access to the special reserves was made conditional on the approval of the holders of a 6 per cent convertible loan stock issue repayable in 2015 and with a nominal value of £6.2 million.

The Saatchi board apparently considered making an offer to repurchase the loan stock to obtain this consent. But the £5 million the holders wanted for their stock, compared with the £1.9 million it was worth in the market, was deemed to high.



Business park sale boost for Speyhawk

By OUR CITY STAFF

SPEYHAWK, the property company which saw its shares plummet last week after a Swedish development group withdrew from takeover talks, yesterday sold a large part of one of its largest developments.

Speyhawk's shares rose 9p to 118p on the news that the company had sold the entire first phase of Thames Valley Park, Reading, to British Gas. Analysts believed the price could have been around £60 million.

Trevor Osborne, Speyhawk chairman, said: "This sale will mean we have made sales this year approaching £200 million. That seems to me a not-inconsiderable amount in a market where there aren't supposed to be any buyers."

The first phase consists of three buildings totalling 182,000 sq ft with parking space for 900 cars on a site of around 13 acres. Mr Osborne described them as the best business park buildings in the country.

When complete the whole development will total 1.5 million sq ft of office space set in 200 acres.

Speyhawk's shares dropped 164p in two days last week, after the announcement that Nordstjernan had decided not to press ahead with a long-expected bid at between 330p to 350p.

Additionally, Solarrior, a subsidiary of Clairbois, for £2.35 million in cash, subject to final stock valuation.

Retain for small denomination bank only on supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to resident citizens.

Tough market hits Brammer results

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

PRE-TAX profits at Brammer, the industrial services group, slipped from £6.73 million to £6.5 million in the first half, reflecting the tough conditions in British industry.

Turnover inched up from £60.3 million to £63.4 million. Jon Foulds, the outgoing chairman, described British demand as "at best, hesitant". Overseas markets have, however, been stronger.

A 38 per cent tax charge, due to increased profits in some high-tax countries, and unrelieved losses in others, has led to a more pronounced dip in earnings per share, from 10.2p to 9.5p.

The interim dividend stays at 4.5p a share. Mr Foulds said BSL, the group's main subsidiary, had gained turnover, and held margins and profits, but there had been a setback in the rental business. The precision engineering and master pumps divisions increased profits.

Mr Foulds has been appointed chairman of the Halifax Building Society. His successor at Brammer is Hugh Lang, Brammer's chief executive is Robert Fouldes-Jones.

This is the first meeting of the whole group with the examiner since he was appointed, said a spokesman for the examiner. The banks are expected to ask for security to back loans and for better terms on the debt, if they are to continue supporting the group once the examiner's report is filed on October 10.

Top men: Hugh Lang and Robert Fouldes-Jones

Goodman examiner calls banks

By OUR CITY STAFF

AN IRISH court-appointed examiner investigating the affairs of the heavily indebted Goodman International, Europe's largest meat exporter, has called in the group's 33 bankers for a meeting in Dublin next week.

The privately owned group of Larry Goodman, hard hit by Gulf tensions, owes £2460 million (£400 million) to banks around the world.

Iraq in turn owes £2180 million to Goodman International, a major beef processor and exporter, which accounts for 5 per cent of Ireland's gross national product. The banks had requested a meeting with Peter Fitzpatrick, the examiner, and he agreed to meet them at the headquarters of Allied Irish Bank in Dublin next Wednesday.

"This is the first meeting of the whole group with the examiner since he was appointed," said a spokesman for the examiner. The banks are expected to ask for security to back loans and for better terms on the debt, if they are to continue supporting the group once the examiner's report is filed on October 10.

He said it was impossible to say exactly how much customers would eventually receive, as some customers, who

Lowndes clients unlikely to receive full payment

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LOWNDES Queensway customers, who lost money when the group went into receivership last month, are unlikely to recover the full amount of their advance payments under the insurance policy for customer deposits.

The policy, which was taken out in January by Norman Ireland, the Lowndes chairman, is worth £15 million and the company estimates that advance payments taken before the group went into receivership will total £16 million.

The payment for processing the thousands of claims could exceed £1 million, reducing the amount of money available for payout.

Jonathan Phillips, of Price Waterhouse, who is administering the policy, said he would be disappointed if Lowndes customers did not get back at least 75p in the pound from the policy.

So far the largest claims run to several thousand pounds. He said it was impossible to say exactly how much customers would eventually receive, as some customers, who

had lodged a claim and paid a deposit of under 30 per cent, may still receive the goods they ordered.

Some customers who paid by credit card may obtain repayment by the credit card company under the Consumer Credit Act and this would also reduce the number of claims on the insurance policy.

So far the number of claims lodged totals 17,500, but Price Waterhouse believe the final number could reach 40,000.

Under the terms of the policy, payment can be made 67 days after the liquidation of Lowndes.

Lowndes has yet to go into liquidation and customers may have to wait until after Christmas before receiving any money.

Price Waterhouse expects to send out claim forms to customers in October, when Lowndes receivers will have made all the outstanding deliveries.

Customers are advised to keep all documentation of their purchases to validate

their claim. Mr Phillips says that action will be taken against anyone found submitting a fraudulent claim.

He warned against schemes devised by other furniture retailers, such as ELS, whereby Lowndes customers are being supplied with goods similar to those they ordered from Lowndes on payment of the balance outstanding.

Customers then assign their claim under the policy for the deposit to the other retailer.

Mr Phillips said such claims may not be effective and customers could have their contract with Lowndes enforced by the receivers, which means they could end up owning two sets of goods and could pay twice.

Customers who believe they have a claim and have not yet written to Price Waterhouse should do so, giving their full name, address and amount of deposit paid to Lowndes Queensway Customer Deposits Ltd, PO Box 4, London SW190JF.

Gold card customers exceed overdraft limits as hard times bite

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE cold wind of the economic downturn has reached even the most blue-blooded of banks. While a bank such as Midland struggles under the weight of bad debts running at £1.3 million a day, Adam & Company, the Edinburgh-based private bank, has discovered it has problem customers of its own - gold card holders.

The bank has been forced to make the first specific provisions of £64,000 in its six-year history against a small group of gold card holders who have used the card's automatic £10,000 overdraft and more, and have declared they cannot repay it.

James Laurensen, Adam's managing director, admits these well-heeled bad debtors caught the bank off guard. "We gave cards to anyone who met our criteria as a customer.

But these gentlemen, or men at any rate, ran up to their £10,000 limit very quickly and owed us £15,000 or £20,000 before we could stop them."

Adam demands that its 3,000 customers have a minimum salary of £50,000 and assets of £250,000. But in these harder times, Mr Laurensen said customers' salaries and even assets had disappeared at an alarming rate.

The bank's only consolation is that none of the bad debtors is Scottish, all are from the Southeast, some from Hampshire - not so much Third World as NW3rd World debt.

"We are in touch with all of these people and hope to recover the money when their circumstances improve," said Mr Laurensen.

Adam's bad debts may seem trivial in comparison to the billion pound write-offs of Third World debt that Adam's larger competitors have been forced to make, but this and

other troubles prevented the bank from producing its million pound profit. Instead, pre-tax profits in the year to end-June rose 3 per cent to £882,000. The dividend on its ordinary shares, which are privately held, is rising 12.5 per cent to 2.25p.

Adam also echoed Midland's troubles by suffering from a mismatched treasury book last year. The company was caught by surprise in last autumn's interest rate increases, which cost it more than £100,000.

Adam, named after Adam Smith, was founded in 1981, the first new Scottish bank for more than 140 years, to cater for Scotland's wealthy inhabitants. The bank now has a small branch in Pall Mall, London.

The problems with the gold cards and treasury had advanced in many other parts of the bank. Customer deposits increased from £39.4 to

£61 million, while the miniature corporate bank also saw deposits rise by half to £15 million. Adam established a Guernsey subsidiary and bought a new computer for its Charlotte Square headquarters.

At least Adam does not have share price problems to add to its gold card embarrassment. The benefit of private quotation means the price has been rising since it opened. Today the price is 155p, 53 per cent up in six years, on a price/earnings ratio of 29, almost four times higher than its quoted rivals.

The shares are traded on a matched-bid basis, with many of Adam's customers eager to become co-owners, although not on a gold card overdraft.

The Kuwait Investment Office has taken advantage of the price and sold before the Gulf invasion. It has kept its 10.6 per cent stake in Midland.

Tate & Lyle plans new bid for British Sugar

By ANGELA MACKAY

TATE & Lyle, the sugar group, performed an about-face yesterday, declaring the company was again proposing to bid for its rival, British Sugar, just two months after withdrawing a planned offer.

The announcement coincided with Berisford International, British Sugar's parent, posting information memoranda to parties interested in buying its prime asset.

It is believed between 20 and 30 copies of the memorandum — 27 pages plus eight exhibits — have been dispatched by Schroders, advisers on the sale, to British, Italian, Swiss, French and American companies.

By the end of the lengthy negotiation period, which will include regulatory approval from European Community and British authorities, Berisford hopes about six companies will be left as serious bidders prepared to pay £1 billion for British Sugar.

Berisford put all its assets up for sale in July after a disastrous foray into the New York commercial property market forced write-offs of £200 million over a 12-month period.

The company is expected to announce a refinancing in a few weeks involving the provision of up to £100 million of new working capital facilities.

This indicates that the syndicate of 60 banks led by NatWest is relaxed about the auction procedure.

Three days before Berisford announced the auction, Tate



Shaw: bid in public interest



Weston: waiting on OFT

& Lyle ruled out a bid for the group because of the troubled property portfolio. It also cited problems arising from sugar marketing agreements between the two groups, implying Tate & Lyle would not be able to go before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission with clean hands.

In March, Berisford's former management invited Tate & Lyle to make an offer for the group. Tate & Lyle, whose first bid was blocked by the regulators in 1987, then approached the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT referred the prospective offer to the MMC. Two weeks after Tate withdrew from the bidding, the MMC laid aside the reference.

The only other prospective buyer in the public arena is Garry Weston's Associated British Foods which is awaiting OFT approval. This is expected within seven days.

Neil Shaw, chairman of

Tate & Lyle, said yesterday that acquiring British Sugar had "always been the goal of our discussions with Berisford".

"Tate & Lyle welcomes the opportunity to purchase British Sugar without also acquiring the non-sugar assets... and hope an MMC inquiry can be started quickly and completed within a four-month time scale, given the work already undertaken on the previous referral," Mr Shaw said.

Mr Shaw said a merger of British Sugar and Tate & Lyle would be in the public interest because it would secure the future of the British cane sugar refining industry and create a rival to the big companies being formed out of the reconfiguration of the continental industry.

David Lang, an analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, said Tate was keen to declare its hand ahead of the

new EC competition policy due to be introduced on September 21 against the backdrop of a rapidly changing sugar regime.

"They need to be in there pitching about synergy between the two groups but sometimes it does look like Tate are making it up as they go along," Mr Lang said.

Shares in Tate & Lyle ended 6p lower at 247p after the market questioned whether the company actually had the money to make an offer.

Associated British Foods was down 14p at 404p while Berisford was unchanged at 40p.

Paul Lewis, Tate's finance director, said the company had made a presentation to the OFT on sugar marketing practices and had put compliance procedures in place to prevent abuse.

Berisford's management, led by John Slater, the chairman, did not consider that there had been any manipulation of the market by the two companies.

Tate's latest proposal does not mention a price. Like the other prospective bidders, it will not do so until the deal has been passed by the regulators.

One of the recipients of Berisford's memoranda said it did not expect a deal to be clinched for at least five months.

In the meantime, Berisford is expected to announce further asset sales to reduce its debt from about £1 billion to some £850 million by the beginning of next month.

Wakeham's power roadshow must ignore the faint-hearted

So far, President Saddam Hussein has only threatened the privatisation of the regional electricity companies. Only the outbreak of a shooting war in the Middle East is likely to stop the sale.



KENNETH FLEET

There are still four days to go before the opening of the marketing campaign on Wednesday and, even after the fanfares have sounded they can be silenced. But when the show is on the road, John Wakeham, whose brief as secretary for energy is to privatise electricity almost at any cost, will be extremely reluctant to take it off.

I understand he believes war will be avoided. If he is right, he and his advisers are left with the familiar problems of assessing the market and setting the price.

The market is not bristling with confidence and, until the Middle East tensions are resolved, the mood of apprehension and caution is unlikely to change, except for the worse. The "pathfinder" prospectus, which will contain profit forecasts for the 12 companies, will be published on November 2 and the offer price of the shares revealed on November 21. Dealing should begin on December 11.

During the critical three weeks of the offer, the underwriters will be at risk. There is some talk of institutional reluctance to underwrite the offer while there is the possibility of war. That would be a foolish thing for them to do. There is a similar faint-hearted ring about suggestions that the government would be prudent not to try to sell 100 per cent of the companies in the present cautious climate but restrict the sale to 51 per cent. Mr Wakeham should shut his ears to such defeatist talk. It would not be clever to leave the new market in electricity distribution shares with a 49 per cent overhang of stock to be

peddled at some future date. In any event, the 12 regional companies hardly add up to an indigestible lump.

The government would like £6 billion from the sale but would say it was satisfied with £5 billion. The Opposition parties will shriek that the government is giving them away at such a price, though not as loudly as they would if the price were based on the value of £3.8 billion put on the 12 by one City electricity analyst. Probably between 15 and 20 per cent of the stock will be sold overseas and 40 per cent, with another 10 per cent clawed back for them from the institutions if the demand is high enough, will be reserved for private investors. As only 40 per cent of the sale price will be payable at the time of the offer, the immediate call for cash is not huge.

The offer will be modelled on last year's successful sale of the ten water companies. Institutional shareholders will have to buy a package of stock in all 12 companies but private investors can choose the shares they want. They will have the extra inducement of 10 per cent off electricity bills, or a one-for-ten free share after three years, to buy shares in their own regional company.

The critical number obviously is the price, which will be set to give a yield around the 8 per cent mark. The level of dividend will depend on the level of profits and this is an area where battle between Mr Wakeham and the heads of the 12 companies is joined but not yet

concluded. The latter prefer expectations to be pitched lower rather than higher. It makes their tasks as managers easier and at the same time magnifies their achievements.

But the minister is not a former whip for nothing. His powers of persuasion are considerable, as he has shown in negotiations over the debts the companies build into their accounts and the so-called "X" factors limiting their freedom to raise electricity prices. He is used to having his way and he can, if he thinks fear might help, invoke the name of Hanson. If Lord Hanson's interest in buying PowerGen did nothing else for the cause, it concentrated the minds of men who suddenly found that their company had more sinew, more strength, more prospects and more value than they hitherto had thought.

The companies are not all the same size, their industrial profiles vary, their managements are not uniformly good and for these and other reasons their prospects vary. But for 90 per cent of their profits, they can rely on their local monopolies in distributing electricity. It may be heavily regulated but it is also low risk, a quality I suspect two or three million investors might value, come December.

Floating the two generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, in February presents problems of a different kind, which a trade sale of PowerGen to Hanson or any other company would have avoided. The fear has always been that selling them off separately and in sequence might favour one and leave the other heavily under-subscribed. The suggestion now is that shares in the two companies should be offered as one package which could be split shortly after the sale was completed. It is a workable compromise but it looks unnecessarily defensive.

Butler Cox shares slide on results

SHARES in Butler Cox, the information technology business that came to the market 15 months ago, more than halved in value at one point yesterday, following disappointing first-half results and a warning about second-half trading.

They crashed from 178p — 3p above their June 1989 placing price — to 75p at one stage, after the company revealed a fall in pre-tax profits from £634,000 to £400,000 for the first half of 1990. The shares closed at 102p. The interim dividend is held at 1.75p.

The company said that the downturn in the economy "will inevitably have an impact on our performance in the second half".

Mallett profits increase 35.9%

THE downturn in consumer spending has not affected the passion of well-heeled tourists for fine antiques, according to Mallett, one of Britain's longest established antique dealers, but the confrontation in the Gulf might.

In the six months to end-June, Mallett made pre-tax profits of £2.67 million, up 35.9 per cent. Sales rose 38.3 per cent to £8.36 million and earnings per share rose to 12.6p. The interim dividend is 2p, up from 1.6p.

An exceptionally strong performance in the second six months of last year continued into the first six months of the current trading period, the company said, but added: "Economic uncertainty and fluctuating exchange rates, compounded by the Middle East situation, may affect our markets." The shares fell 1p to 147p.

Northern buy

Northern Foods, which manufactures ready-made meals for supermarket groups, has bought Paleotherm, a manufacturer of hot and cold pies, pizzas and sausages, from J Sainsbury for £14 million. Northern Foods will pay £12 million in cash up front and £2 million in September next year. Paleotherm's products sell under Sainsbury's own label and it also supplies other food retailers. Its factory in Shropshire employs 550 staff. Northern Food shares rose 9p to 335p.

Magnolia down

Magnolia Group, the prints and picture frame manufacturers, saw pre-tax profits fall in the six months to end-June from £715,000 to £501,000. Sales rose from £10.9 million to £11.6 million and earnings per share fell from 7.9p to 5.56p. The interim dividend remained at 1.75p. The shares were unchanged at 95p.

Bancrofts deal

McLeod Russel Holdings, the surface coatings, textiles and property group, has paid £8.8 million for Bancrofts, the motor vehicle paint and finish company based in Birmingham. The deal was financed out of existing cash resources. McLeod Russel said at July 11 was £3.14 million and in 1989 the company made a pre-tax profit of £1.26 million.



Partially protected: Richard Allan expects the remainder of 1990 to be challenging

REDUCTIONS in new car and truck sales have led to a 42 per cent decline in first-half profits at Perry Group, the motor distributor (Our City Staff writes).

Taxable profits for the six months to end-June were £2.2 million against £3.78 million for the same period last year. Sales were down 4 per cent at £172 million.

Earnings per share tumbled 39 per cent to 7.9p. The interim dividend, at 2.75p, is unchanged from last year.

Richard Allan, the chairman, said the company had been partially protected from

Perry hit by drop in new car sales

the downturn in sales by the wide geographical and manufacturer spread of its 27 franchises.

The five Rover dealerships, for example, performed well, "thus counteracting some of the difficulties experienced by

other dealerships". The company's other operations held up well, he said, particularly accident repairs.

Financial controls had been tightened in response to the downturn in demand, resulting in a reduction in half-year gearing to 32.2 per cent from 47.9 per cent in June last year. This was achieved without the need to cut back on the company's capital expenditure programme, Mr Allan said.

The remainder of 1990 was likely to remain "challenging", given the reduction in the August new car market.

Master classes from men at the top

Watching David Frost interviewing Lord Hanson and Sir James Goldsmith is an experience which you too can have for the price of *Take It from the Top* videos. You might also succeed in business if you apply the precepts of the masters, but not without really trying. There is no magic formula and the fundamental problem comes at the beginning. In Lord Hanson's words: "First of all, you have to want to do it. A lot of people think about it but don't want to do it."

He must be right. The first quartet revealing all also includes Mark McCormack and Sir John Harvey-Jones. There are not many like them, certainly in Britain, and although the next four should not be difficult, I wonder where David Frost and Martin Sorrell, his partner in Resolute Training Limited, will find their like for the third batch.

Their already well-known "secrets of success" in this format have a freshness

which makes them compelling. The most instructive secret Lord Hanson and Sir James share is their aversion to and avoidance of high technology. Lord Hanson sees it as today's fashion which becomes tomorrow's junk, and prefers adding value to bricks and cigarettes. Sir James confesses to being "no good in hi-tech things" and also prefers relatively simple businesses, such as food and supermarkets. Turning a plastic tomb-type supermarket into an exciting place is, none the less, "immensely difficult to do".

They are equally forthright on risk. The first principle in Sir Gordon White's book on *How to Buy a Business* is "Avoid the Downside Risk". Lord Hanson admits that they have made "mistakes of omission" by not wanting to pay too much, but clearly they have been right more often than they have been wrong.

Sir James regards risk as "disagreeable. You have to take risks; nothing is

for nothing and there are no short cuts if you want to succeed". But once at risk, he wants to get out.

Both men believe vehemently in change. Sir James advocates leaving school at 16, mixing theory and practice and constantly testing your ideas in the market place. Lord Hanson insists: "You need change. The board needs to be responsive to change. And if it's not seeing change from its existing executives, it should ask for it and insist upon it."

At Hanson, it is the bottom line and the capital value of the business that matter. The board is responsible for the shareholders' money. Sir James sees a conflict between shareholders and managers. Managers want to create an empire and acquire the trappings of an emperor. The answer is to align their interests by giving shares to the managers.

It all makes good sense, and there are a few laughs.

Laird's rise lower than expected

By JONATHAN PRYNN

LAIRD Group, the specialist engineering and car body seals manufacturer, has announced interim pre-tax profits below expectations at £21.6 million to end-June, a 7 per cent improvement on last year's period. Analysts had been expecting about £23 million for the first half.

The shares immediately shed 8p on the news and closed at 195p, down 11p on the day. Sales rose 16.5 per cent to £252.5 million, but were down slightly after discontinued businesses were stripped out.

Earnings fell 1.3p to 13p after a £35.2 million one-for-five rights issue in August last year. A 4p interim dividend is 2.5p per share. The industrial products division was the

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Call	Put		Call	Put
Series	Oct Jan Apr	Oct Jan Apr	Series	Oct Jan Apr	Oct Jan Apr
Ad Lib	420 63 72 80 4 8 13	140 25 29 34 3 6 7	Ad Lib	140 25 29 34 3 6 7	140 25 29 34 3 6 7
(478)	480 32 47 53 12 21 23	180 9 9 12 21 23	(156)	180 10 9 12 21 23 14	180 10 9 12 21 23 14
ABDA	100 13 20 - 2 - 4 -	280 5 5 7 12 14 15	ABDA	280 5 5 7 12 14 15	280 5 5 7 12 14 15
(100)	110 5 13 - 5 - 6 -	300 10 10 12 14 15	(202)	300 10 10 12 14 15	300 10 10 12 14 15
Banc	120 3 11 - 12 14 -	320 15 15 17 19 20	Banc	320 15 15 17 19 20	320 15 15 17 19 20
(800)	130 5 11 - 12 14 -	340 20 20 22 24 25	(800)	340 20 20 22 24 25	340 20 20 22 24 25
Beris	140 10 10 12 14 15	360 25 25 27 29 30	Beris	360 25 25 27 29 30	360 25 25 27 29 30
(100)	150 15 15 17 19 20	380 30 30 32 34 35	(100)	380 30 30 32 34 35	380 30 30 32 34 35
Brit Air	160 20 20 22 24 25	400 35 35 37 39 40	Brit Air	400 35 35 37 39 40	400 35 35 37 39 40
(150)	170 25 25 27 29 30	420 40 40 42 44 45	(150)	420 40 40 42 44 45	420 40 40 42 44 45
BP	180 30 30 32 34 35	440 45 45 47 49 50	BP	440 45 45 47 49 50	440 45 45 47 49 50
(100)	190 35 35 37 39 40	460 50 50 52 54 55	(100)	460 50 50 52 54 55	460 50 50 52 54 55
Com Unit	200 40 40 42 44 45	480 55 55 57 59 60	Com Unit	480 55 55 57 59 60	480 55 55 57 59 60
(100)	210 45 45 47 49 50	500 60 60 62 64 65	(100)	500 60 60 62 64 65	500 60 60 62 64 65
Electron	220 50 50 52 54 55	520 65 65 67 69 70	Electron	520 65 65 67 69 70	520 65 65 67 69 70
(310)	230 55 55 57 59 60	540 70 70 72 74 75	(310)	540 70 70 72 74 75	540 70 70 72 74 75
GWR	240 60 60 62 64 65	560 75 75 77 79 80	GWR	560 75 75 77 79 80	560 75 75 77 79 80
(100)	250 65 65 67 69 70	580 80 80 82 84 85	(100)	580 80 80 82 84 85	580 80 80 82 84 85
Grand	260 70 70 72 74 75	600 85 85 87 89 90	Grand	600 85 85 87 89 90	600 85 85 87 89 90
(100)	270 75 75 77 79 80	620 90 90 92 94 95	(100)	620 90 90 92 94 95	620 90 90 92 94 95
ICI	280 80 80 82 84 85	640 95 95 97 99 100	ICI	640 95 95 97 99 100	640 95 95 97 99 100
(877)	290 85 85 87 89 90	660 100 100 102 104 105	(877)	660 100 100 102 104 105	660 100 100 102 104 105
Kingfisher	300 90 90 92 94 95	680 105 105 107 109 110	Kingfisher	680 105 105 107 109 110	680 105 105 107 109 110
(307)	310 95 95 97 99 100	700 110 110 112 114 115	(307)	700 110 110 112 114 115	700 110 110 112 114 115
Ladbroke	320 100 100 102 104 105	720 115 115 117 119 120	Ladbroke	720 115 115 117 119 120	720 115 115 117 119 120
(200)	330 105 105 107 109 110	740 120 120 122 124 125	(200)	740 120 120 122 124 125	740 120 120 122 124 125
Land Sec	340 110 110 112 114 115	760 125 125 127 129 130	Land Sec	760 125 125 127 129 130	760 125 125 127 129 130
(100)	350 115 115 117 119 120	780 130 130 132 134 135	(100)	780 130 130 132 134 135	780 130 130 132 134 135
M & S	360 120 120 122 124 125	800 135 135 137 139 140	M & S	800 135 135 137 139 140	800 135 135 137 139 140
(200)	370 125 125 127 129 130	820 140 140 142 144 145	(200)	820 140 140 142 144 145	820 140 140 142 144 145
STC	380 130 130 132 134 135	840 145 145 147 149 150	STC	840 145 145 147 149 150	840 145 145 147 149 150
(247)	390 135 135 137 139 140	860 150 150 152 154 155	(247)	860 150 150 152 154 155	860 150 150 152 154 155
Telecom	400 140 140 142 144 145	880 155 155 157 159 160	Telecom	880 155 155 157 159 160	880 155 155 157 159 160
(259)	410 145 145 147 149 150	900 160 160 162 164 165	(259)	900 160 160 162 164 165	900 160 160 162 164 165
Shell	420 150 150 152 154 155	920 165 165 167 169 170	Shell	920 165 165 167 169 170	920 165 165 167 169 170
(100)	430 155 155 157 159 160	940 170 170 172 174 175	(100)	940 170 170 172 174 175	940 170 170 172 174 175
Unilever	440 160 160 162 164 165	960 175 175 177 179 180	Unilever	960 175 175 177 179 180	960 175 175 177 179 180
(100)	450 165 165 167 169 170	980 180 180 182 184 185	(100)	980 180 180 182 184 185	980 180 180 182 184 185
Unilever	460 170 170 172 174 175	1000 185 185 187 189 190	Unilever	1000 185 185 187 189 190	1000 185 185 187 189 190
(100)	470 175 175 177 179 180	1020 190 190 192 194 195	(100)	1020 190 190 192 194 195	1020 190 190 192 194 195
Unilever	480 180 180 182 184 185	1040 195 195 197 199 200	Unilever	1040 195 195 197 199 200	1040 195 195 197 199 200
(100)	490 185 185 187 189 190	1060 200 200 202 204 205	(100)	1060 200 200 202 204 205	1060 200 200 202 204 205
Unilever	500 190 190 192 194 195	1080 205 205 207 209 210	Unilever	1080 205 205 207 209 210	1080 205 205 207 209 210
(100)	510 195 195 197 199 200	1100 210 210 212 214 215	(100)	1100 210 210 212 214 215	1100 210 210 212 214 215
Unilever	520 200 200 202 204 205	1120 215 215 217 219 220	Unilever	1120 215 215 217 219 220	1120 215 215 217 219 220
(100)	530 205 205 207 209 210	1140 220 220 222 224 225	(100)	1140 220 220 222 224 225	1140 220 220 222 224 225
Unilever	540 210 210 212 214 215	1160 225 225 227 229 230	Unilever	1160 225 225 227 229 230	1160 225 225 227 229 230
(100)	550 215 215 217 219 220	1180 230 230 232 234 235	(100)	1180 230 230 232 234 235	1180 230 230 232 234 235
Unilever	560 220 220 222 224 225	1200 235 235 237 239 240	Unilever	1200 235 235 237 239 240	1200 235 235 237 239 240
(100)	570 225 225 227 229 230	1220 240 240 242 244 245	(100)	1220 240 240 242 244 245	1220 240 240 242 244 245
Unilever	580 230 230 232 234 235	1240 245 245 247 249 250	Unilever	1240 245 245 247 249 250	1240 245 245 247 249 250
(100)	590 235 235 237 239 240	1260 250 250 252 254 255	(100)	1260 250 250 252 254 255	1260 250 250 252 254 255
Unilever	600 240 240 242 244 245	1280 255 255 257 259 260	Unilever	1280 255 255 257 259 260	1280 255 255 257 259 260
(100)	610 245 245 247 249 250	1300 260 260 262 264 265	(100)	1300 260 260 262 264 265	1300 260 260 262 264 265
Unilever	620 250 250 252 254 255	1320 265 265 267 269 270	Unilever	1320 265 265 267 269 270	1320 265 265 267 269 270
(100)	630 255 255 257 259 260	1340 270 270 272 274 275	(100)	1340 270 270 272 274 275	1340 270 270 272 274 275
Unilever	640 260 260 262 264 265	1360 275 275 277 279 280	Unilever	1360 275 275 277 279 280	1360 275 275 277 279 280
(100)	650 265 265 267 269 270	1380 280 280 282 284 285	(100)	1380 280 280 282 284 285	1380 280 280 282 284 285
Unilever	660 270 270 272 274 275	1400 285 285 287 289 290	Unilever	1400 285 285 287 289 290	1400 285 285 287 289 290
(100)	670 275 275 277 279 280	1420 290 290 292 294 295	(100)	1420 290 290 292 294 295	1420 290 290 292 294 295
Unilever	680 280 280 282 284 285	1440 295 295 297 299 300	Unilever	1440 295 295 297 299 300	1440 295 295 297 299 300
(100)	690 285 285 287 289 290	1460 300 300 302 304 305	(100)	1460 300 300 302 304 305	1460 300 300 302 304 305
Unilever	700 290 290 292 294 295	1480 305 305 307 309 310	Unilever	1480 305 305 307 309 310	1480 305 305 307 309 310
(100)	710 295 295 297 299 300	1500 310 310 312 314 315	(100)	1500 310 310 312 314 315	1500 310 310 312 314 315
Unilever	720 300 300 302 304 305	1520 315 315 317 319 320	Unilever	1520 315 315 317 319 320	1520 315 315 317 319 320
(100)	730 305 305 307 309 310	1540 320 320 322 324 325	(100)	1540 320 320 322 324 325	1540 320 320 322 324 325
Unilever	740 310 310 312 314 315	1560 325 325 327 329 330	Unilever	1560 325 325 327 329 330	1560 325 325 327 329 330
(100)	750 315 315 317 319 320	1580 330 330 332 334 335	(100)	1580 330 330 332 334 335	1580 330 330 332 334 335
Unilever	760 320 320 322 324 325	1600 335 335 337 339 340	Unilever	1600 335 335 337 339 340	1600 335 335 337 339 340
(100)	770 325 325 327 329 330	1620 340 340 342 344 345	(100)	1620 340 340 342 344 345	1620 340 340 342 344 345
Unilever	780 330 330 332 334 335	1640 345 345 347 349 350	Unilever	1640 345 345 347 349 350	1640 345 345 347 349 350
(100)	790 335 335 337 339 340	1660 350 350 352 354 355	(100)	1660 350 350 352 354 355	1660 350 350 352 354 355
Unilever	800 340 340 342 344 345	1680 355 355 357 359 360	Unilever	1680 355 355 357 359 360	1680 355 355 357 359 360
(100)	810 345 345 347 349 350	1700 360 360 362 364 365	(100)	1700 360 360 362 364 365	1700 360 360 362 364 365
Unilever	820 350 350 352 354 355	1720 365 365 367 369 370	Unilever	1720 365 365 367 369 370	1720 365 365 367 369 370
(100)	830 355 355 357 359 360	1740 370 370 372 374 375	(100)	1740 370 370 372 374 375	1740 370 370 372 374 375
Unilever	840 360 360 362 364 365	1760 375 375 377 379 380	Unilever	1760 375 375 377 379 380	1760 375 375 377 379 380
(100)	850 365 365 367 369 370	1780 380 380 382 384 385	(100)	1780 380 380 382 384 385	1780 380 380 382 384 385
Unilever	860 370 370 372 374 375	1800 385 385 387 389 390	Unilever	1800 385 385 387 389 390	1800 385 385 387 389 390
(100)	870 375 375 377 379 380	1820 390 390 392 394 395	(100)	1820 390 390 392 394 395	1820 390 390 392 394 395
Unilever	880 380 380 382 384 385	1840 395 395 397 399 400	Unilever	1840 395 395 397 399 400	1840 395 395 397 399 400
(100)	890 385 385 387 389 390	1860 400 400 402 404 405	(100)	1860 400 400 402 404 405	1860 400 400 402 404 405
Unilever	900 390 390 392 394 395	1880 405 405 407 409 410	Unilever	1880 405 405 407 409 410	1880 405 405 407 409 410
(100)	910 395 395 397 399 400	1900 410 410 412 414 415	(100)	1900 410 410 412 414 415	1900 410 410 412 414 415
Unilever	920 400 400 402 404 405	1920 415 415 417 419 420	Unilever	1920 415 415 417 419 420	1920 415 415 417 419 420
(100)	930 405 405 407 409 410	1940 420 420 422 424 425	(100)	1940 420 420 422 424 425	1940 420 420 422 424 425
Unilever	940 410 410 412 414 415	1960 425 425 427 429 430	Unilever	1960 425 425 427 429 430	1960 425 425 427 429 430
(100)	950 415 415 417 419 420	1980 430 430 432 434 435	(100)	1980 430 430 432 434 435	1980 430 430 432 434 435
Unilever	960 420 420 422 424 425	2000 435 435 437 439 440	Unilever	2000 435 435 437 439 440	2000 435 435 437 439 440
(100)	970 425 425 427 429 430	2020 440 440 442 444 445	(100)	2020 440 440 442 444 445	2020 440 440 442 444 445
Unilever	980 430 430 432 434 435	2040 445 445 447 449 450	Unilever	2040 445 445 447 449 450	2040 445 445 447 449 450
(100)	990 435 435 437 439 440	2060 450 450 452 454 455	(100)	2060 450 450 452 454 455	2060 450 450 452 454 455
Unilever	1000 440 440 442 444 445	2080 455 455 457 459 460	Unilever	2080 455 455 457 459 460	2080 455 455 457 459 460
(100)	1010 445 445 447 449 450	2100 460 460 462 464 465	(100)	2100 460 460 462 464 465	2100 460 460 462 464 465
Unilever	1020 450 450 452 454 455	2120 465 465 467 469 470	Unilever	2120 465 465 467 469 470	2120 465 465 467 469 470
(100)	1030 455 455 457 459 460	2140 470 470 472 47			

STOCK MARKET

Kingfisher shares fall amid talk of traded options deals

ALPHA STOCKS

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

extensive DIY interests, also suffered a markdown, but firmer at 114p, or Booker, 3p below the previous close.

GLS 'A'	184	(-1p)	Malaya	55
GLS 'A'	465	(-5p)	Malaysia Int	55
Satori & Satori	590	(-5p)	Midland	107
WPP	51p	(-12p)	Ninn Investors	105
Costain	520	(-18p)	Paramount	12
Clouping prices	188p	(-6p)	Pittencrieff	110
			Proteus Intd	91

RECENT ISSUES

Selon Healthshare	140
Biam Select (100p)	96
St James Place	85 1/2
Tr Eum Owin	101
Ud Energy	1 1/2 1/4
Uk Uniform	111
Venturi Inv Tet	10
Wig Tpe App	126 1/2

See main listing for Water shares

RIGHTS ISSUES

BDA Hides N/P	1/4
Broad St N/P	1/4
Flotex N/P	1/4
Gardiner Co N/P	1
Kingston Oil N/P	1
Regina H N/P	1
St Group N/P	5 1/2
Telco N/P	1 1/2
Wentworth N/P	1/4

[illegible]

High Low Company

[illegible]

Dow in early advance

NEW YORK—**BLUE** chips recovered all

Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	54%	53%
Beck's	25%	43%	Hudson	54%	53%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	108%	102%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	69%	67%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	45%	45%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	16%	16%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	43%	43%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	27%	27%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	31%	31%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	31%	31%
Beck's	25%	43%	HSN	61%	61%

Brown	33%	32%	11%	32%	31%	Brown	30%	35%
Bray-Myer	30%	30%	James Flier	22%	22%	St Paul	56%	55%
Brown-Fair	35%	38%	Johnnie Jagan	65%	64%	Stanley Wm	80%	29%
Burl Nix	30%	29%	K Robert	27%	17	Stone City	11%	10%

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

stopped with 1965 was down at 94.6 (day's range 94.2-94.1).

NET AND FORWARD RATES

Year	Close	1 month	3 months
1.8995-1.8945	1.91-1.90	91.1-91.0	91.0-90.9
1.8945-1.8900	1.90-1.89	90.9-90.8	90.8-90.7
1.8900-1.8855	1.89-1.88	90.8-90.7	90.7-90.6
1.8855-1.8810	1.88-1.87	90.7-90.6	90.6-90.5
1.8810-1.8765	1.87-1.86	90.6-90.5	90.5-90.4
1.8765-1.8720	1.86-1.85	90.5-90.4	90.4-90.3
1.8720-1.8675	1.85-1.84	90.4-90.3	90.3-90.2
1.8675-1.8630	1.84-1.83	90.3-90.2	90.2-90.1
1.8630-1.8585	1.83-1.82	90.2-90.1	90.1-90.0
1.8585-1.8540	1.82-1.81	90.1-90.0	89.9-89.8
1.8540-1.8495	1.81-1.80	89.9-89.8	89.8-89.7
1.8495-1.8450	1.80-1.79	89.8-89.7	89.7-89.6
1.8450-1.8405	1.79-1.78	89.7-89.6	89.6-89.5
1.8405-1.8360	1.78-1.77	89.6-89.5	89.5-89.4
1.8360-1.8315	1.77-1.76	89.5-89.4	89.4-89.3
1.8315-1.8270	1.76-1.75	89.4-89.3	89.3-89.2
1.8270-1.8225	1.75-1.74	89.3-89.2	89.2-89.1
1.8225-1.8180	1.74-1.73	89.2-89.1	89.1-89.0
1.8180-1.8135	1.73-1.72	89.1-89.0	89.0-88.9
1.8135-1.8090	1.72-1.71	89.0-88.9	88.9-88.8
1.8090-1.8045	1.71-1.70	88.9-88.8	88.8-88.7
1.8045-1.7999	1.70-1.69	88.8-88.7	88.7-88.6
1.7999-1.7954	1.69-1.68	88.7-88.6	88.6-88.5
1.7954-1.7909	1.68-1.67	88.6-88.5	88.5-88.4
1.7909-1.7864	1.67-1.66	88.5-88.4	88.4-88.3
1.7864-1.7819	1.66-1.65	88.4-88.3	88.3-88.2
1.7819-1.7774	1.65-1.64	88.3-88.2	88.2-88.1
1.7774-1.7729	1.64-1.63	88.2-88.1	88.1-88.0
1.7729-1.7684	1.63-1.62	88.1-88.0	88.0-87.9
1.7684-1.7639	1.62-1.61	88.0-87.9	87.9-87.8
1.7639-1.7594	1.61-1.60	87.9-87.8	87.8-87.7
1.7594-1.7549	1.60-1.59	87.8-87.7	87.7-87.6
1.7549-1.7504	1.59-1.58	87.7-87.6	87.6-87.5
1.7504-1.7459	1.58-1.57	87.6-87.5	87.5-87.4
1.7459-1.7414	1.57-1.56	87.5-87.4	87.4-87.3
1.7414-1.7369	1.56-1.55	87.4-87.3	87.3-87.2
1.7369-1.7324	1.55-1.54	87.3-87.2	87.2-87.1
1.7324-1.7279	1.54-1.53	87.2-87.1	87.1-87.0
1.7279-1.7234	1.53-1.52	87.1-87.0	87.0-86.9
1.7234-1.7189	1.52-1.51	87.0-86.9	86.9-86.8
1.7189-1.7144	1.51-1.50	86.9-86.8	86.8-86.7
1.7144-1.7099	1.50-1.49	86.8-86.7	86.7-86.6
1.7099-1.7054	1.49-1.48	86.7-86.6	86.6-86.5
1.7054-1.7009	1.48-1.47	86.6-86.5	86.5-86.4
1.7009-1.6964	1.47-1.46	86.5-86.4	86.4-86.3
1.6964-1.6919	1.46-1.45	86.4-86.3	86.3-86.2
1.6919-1.6874	1.45-1.44	86.3-86.2	86.2-86.1
1.6874-1.6829	1.44-1.43	86.2-86.1	86.1-86.0
1.6829-1.6784	1.43-1.42	86.1-86.0	86.0-85.9
1.6784-1.6739	1.42-1.41	86.0-85.9	85.9-85.8
1.6739-1.6694	1.41-1.40	85.9-85.8	85.8-85.7
1.6694-1.6649	1.40-1.39	85.8-85.7	85.7-85.6
1.6649-1.6604	1.39-1.38	85.7-85.6	85.6-85.5
1.6604-1.6559	1.38-1.37	85.6-85.5	85.5-85.4
1.6559-1.6514	1.37-1.36	85.5-85.4	85.4-85.3
1.6514-1.6469	1.36-1.35	85.4-85.3	85.3-85.2
1.6469-1.6424	1.35-1.34	85.3-85.2	85.2-85.1
1.6424-1.6379	1.34-1.33	85.2-85.1	85.1-85.0
1.6379-1.6334	1.33-1.32	85.1-85.0	85.0-84.9
1.6334-1.6289	1.32-1.31	85.0-84.9	84.9-84.8
1.6289-1.6244	1.31-1.30	84.9-84.8	84.8-84.7
1.6244-1.6199	1.30-1.29	84.8-84.7	84.7-84.6
1.6199-1.6154	1.29-1.28	84.7-84.6	84.6-84.5
1.6154-1.6109	1.28-1.27	84.6-84.5	84.5-84.4
1.6109-1.6064	1.27-1.26	84.5-84.4	84.4-84.3
1.6064-1.6019	1.26-1.25	84.4-84.3	84.3-84.2
1.6019-1.5974	1.25-1.24	84.3-84.2	84.2-84.1
1.5974-1.5929	1.24-1.23	84.2-84.1	84.1-84.0
1.5929-1.5884	1.23-1.22	84.1-84.0	84.0-83.9
1.5884-1.5839	1.22-1.21	84.0-83.9	83.9-83.8
1.5839-1.5794	1.21-1.20	83.9-83.8	83.8-83.7
1.5794-1.5749	1.20-1.19	83.8-83.7	83.7-83.6
1.5749-1.5704	1.19-1.18	83.7-83.6	83.6-83.5
1.5704-1.5659	1.18-1.17	83.6-83.5	83.5-83.4
1.5659-1.5614	1.17-1.16	83.5-83.4	83.4-83.3
1.5614-1.5569	1.16-1.15	83.4-83.3	83.3-83.2
1.5569-1.5524	1.15-1.14	83.3-83.2	83.2-83.1
1.5524-1.5479	1.14-1.13	83.2-83.1	83.1-83.0
1.5479-1.5434	1.13-1.12	83.1-83.0	83.0-82.9
1.5434-1.5389	1.12-1.11	83.0-82.9	82.9-82.8
1.5389-1.5344	1.11-1.10	82.9-82.8	82.8-82.7
1.5344-1.5299	1.10-1.09	82.8-82.7	82.7-82.6
1.5299-1.5254	1.09-1.08	82.7-82.6	82.6-82.5
1.5254-1.5209	1.08-1.07	82.6-82.5	82.5-82.4
1.5209-1.5164	1.07-1.06	82.5-82.4	82.4-82.3
1.5164-1.5119	1.06-1.05	82.4-82.3	82.3-82.2
1.5119-1.5074	1.05-1.04	82.3-82.2	82.2-82.1
1.5074-1.5029	1.04-1.03	82.2-82.1	82.1-82.0
1.5029-1.4984	1.03-1.02	82.1-82.0	82.0-81.9
1.4984-1.4939	1.02-1.01	82.0-81.9	81.9-81.8
1.4939-1.4894	1.01-1.00	81.9-81.8	81.8-81.7
1.4894-1.4849	1.00-0.99	81.8-81.7	81.7-81.6
1.4849-1.4804	0.99-0.98	81.7-81.6	81.6-81.5
1.4804-1.4759	0.98-0.97	81.6-81.5	81.5-81.4
1.4759-1.4714	0.97-0.96	81.5-81.4	81.4-81.3
1.4714-1.4669	0.96-0.95	81.4-81.3	81.3-81.2
1.4669-1.4624	0.95-0.94	81.3-81.2	81.2-81.1
1.4624-1.4579	0.94-0.93	81.2-81.1	81.1-81.0
1.4579-1.4534	0.93-0.92	81.1-81.0	81.0-80.9
1.4534-1.4489	0.92-0.91	81.0-80.9	80.9-80.8
1.4489-1.4444	0.91-0.90	80.9-80.8	80.8-80.7
1.4444-1.4399	0.90-0.89	80.8-80.7	80.7-80.6
1.4399-1.4354	0.89-0.88	80.7-80.6	80.6-80.5
1.4354-1.4309	0.88-0.87	80.6-80.5	80.5-80.4
1.4309-1.4264	0.87-0.86	80.5-80.4	80.4-80.3
1.4264-1.4219	0.86-0.85	80.4-80.3	80.3-80.2
1.4219-1.4174	0.85-0.84	80.3-80.2	80.2-80.1
1.4174-1.4129	0.84-0.83	80.2-80.1	80.1-80.0
1.4129-1.4084	0.83-0.82	80.1-80.0	80.0-79.9
1.4084-1.4039	0.82-0.81	80.0-79.9	79.9-79.8
1.4039-1.3994	0.81-0.80	79.9-79.8	79.8-79.7
1.3994-1.3949	0.80-0.79	79.8-79.7	79.7-79.6
1.3949-1.3904	0.79-0.78	79.7-79.6	79.6-79.5
1.3904-1.3859	0.78-0.77	79.6-79.5	79.5-79.4
1.3859-1.3814	0.77-0.76	79.5-79.4	79.4-79.3
1.3814-1.3769	0.76-0.75	79.4-79.3	79.3-79.2
1.3769-1.3724	0.75-0.74	79.3-79.2	79.2-79.1
1.3724-1.3679	0.74-0.73	79.2-79.1	79.1-79.0
1.3679-1.3634	0.73-0.72	79.1-79.0	79.0-78.9
1.3634-1.3589	0.72-0.71	79.0-78.9	78.9-78.8
1.3589-1.3544	0.71-0.70	78.9-78.8	78.8-78.7
1.3544-1.3499	0.70-0.69	78.8-78.7	78.7-78.6
1.3499-1.3454	0.69-0.68	78.7-78.6	78.6-78.5
1.3454-1.3409	0.68-0.67	78.6-78.5	78.5-78.4
1.3409-1.3364	0.67-0.66	78.5-78.4	78.4-78.3
1.3364-1.3319	0.66-0.65	78.4-78.3	78.3-78.2
1.3319-1.3274	0.65-0.64	78.3-78.2	78.2-78.1
1.3274-1.3229	0.64-0.63	78.2-78.1	78.1-78.0
1.3229-1.3184	0.63-0.62	78.1-78.0	78.0-77.9
1.3184-1.3139	0.62-0.61	78.0-77.9	77.9-77.8
1.3139-1.3094	0.61-0.60	77.9-77.8	77.8-77.7
1.3094-1.3049	0.60-0.59	77.8-77.7	77.7-77.6
1.3049-1.3004	0.59-0.58	77.7-77.6	77.6-77.5
1.3004-1.2959	0.58-0.57	77.6-77.5	77.5-77.4
1.2959-1.2914	0.57-0.56	77.5-77.4	77.4-77.3
1.2914-1.2869	0.56-0.55	77.4-77.3	77.3-77.2
1.2869-1.2824	0.55-0.54	77.3-77.2	77.2-77.1
1.2824-1.2779	0.54-0.53	77.2-77.1	77.1-77.0
1.2779-1.2734	0.53-0.52	77.1-77.0	77.0-76.9
1.2734-1.2689	0.52-0.51	77.0-76.9	76.9-76.8
1.2689-1.2644	0.51-0.50	76.9-76.8	76.8-76.7
1.2644-1.2599	0.50-0.49	76.8-76.7	76.7-76.6
1.2599-1.2554	0.49-0.48	76.7-76.6	76.6-76.5
1.2554-1.2509	0.48-0.47	76.6-76.5	76.5-76.4
1.2509-1.2464	0.47-0.46	76.5-76.4	76.4-76.3
1.2464-1.2419	0.46-0.45	76.4-76.3	76.3-76.2
1.2419-1.2374	0.45-0.44	76.3-76.2	76.2-76.1
1.2374-1.2329	0.44-0.43	76.2-76.1	76.1-76.0
1.2329-1.2284	0.43-0.42	76.1-76.0	76.0-75.9
1.2284-1.2239	0.42-0.41	76.0-75.9	75.9-75.8
1.2239-1.2194	0.41-0.40	75.9-75.8	75.8-75.7
1.2194-1.2149	0.40-0.39	75.8-75.7	75.7-75.6
1.2149-1.2104	0.39-0.38	75.7-75.6	75.6-75.5
1.2104-1.2059	0.38-0.37	75.6-75.5	75.5-75.4
1.2059-1.2014	0.37-0.36	75.5-75.4	75.4-75.3
1.2014-1.1969	0.36-0.35	75.4-75.3	75.3-75.2
1.1969-1.1924	0.35-0.34	75.3-75.2	75.2-75.1
1.1924-1.1879	0.34-0.33	75.2-75.1	75.1-75.0
1.1879-1.1834	0.33-0.32	75.1-75.0	75.0-74.9
1.1834-1.1789	0.32-0.31	75.0-74.9	74.9-74.8
1.1789-1.1744	0.31-0.30	74.9-74.8	74.8-74.7
1.1744-1.1699	0.30-0.29	74.8-74.7	74.7-74.6
1.1699-1.1654	0.29-0.28	74.7-74.6	74.6-74.5
1.1654-1.1609	0.28-0.27	74.6-74.5	74.5-74.4
1.1609-1.1564	0.27-0.26	74.5-74.4	74.4-74.3
1.1564-1.1519	0.26-0.25	74.4-74.3	74.3-74.2
1.1519-1.1474	0.25-0.24	74.3-74.2	74.2-74.1
1.1474-1.1429	0.24-0.23	74.2-74.1	74.1-74.0
1.1429-1.1384	0.23-0.22	74.1-74.0	74.0-73.9
1.1384-1.1339	0.22-0.21	74.0-73.9	73.9-73.8
1.1339-1.1294	0.21-0.20	73.9-73.8	73.8-73.7
1.1294-1.1249	0.20-0.19	73.8-73.7	73.7-73.6
1.1249-1.1204	0.19-0.18	73.7-73.6	73.6-73.5
1.1204-1			

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

5795	W Germany	5,585.1-5,564.0	Hong Kong	718.7-718.3
5796	Switzerland	1,303.1-1,304.0	Italy	7,789.2-7,762.2
5797	Sweden	1,742.1-1,743.5	Japan	52.15-52.15
5798	France	5,230.5-5,243.0	Malaysia	150.87-150.75
1957	Japan	140.25-140.45	Australia	97.47-97.50
5455				10.57-10.58

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Ecol.

MONEY MARKETS

16 Finance New 16

Week Base 14%

1" = 14%
 1 month 13 1/2%
 3 months 13 1/4%
 6 months 13 1/4%
 9 months 13 1/4%
 12 months 13 1/4%
 15 months 14%
 18 months 14%
 21 months 14%
 24 months 14%
 30 months 14 1/2%
 36 months 14 1/2%
 48 months 14 1/2%

"EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %"

Currency	7	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar:	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
£:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
DM:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Swiss:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
French:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Italian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Spanish:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Portuguese:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Belgian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dutch:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Austrian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Swedish:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Norwegian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Japanese:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chinese:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Indian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Pakistani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Sri Lankan:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Taiwanese:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Thai:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Vietnamese:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Yugoslavian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Czech:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Slovak:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Hungarian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Polish:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Russian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ukrainian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Belarusian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Georgian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Armenian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Azerbaijani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Abkhazian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ossetian:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Ingush:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Chechen:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
Dagestani:	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6

BULLION: **Per ounce**
 COME \$389.50-390.00 CLOS. \$385.75-387.25

[illegible]

81.97	92.03	951	Japanese Govt Bond	Previous open interest	591
92.04	92.10	4047	Dec 90	89.75	89.75
				89.50	89.54
					141

German East Bond				Provision open interest			
91/92	91/93	91/95	91/96	Mar 91	Mar 92	Mar 93	7/84
91.20	91.25	7090		68.00	61.50	61.50	70.44

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Official prices/advance price Premium			
(£/tonne)	Contd	3 month	Vol
Stripper Grade #1	1610.0-1615.0	1630.0-1640.0	666150
Lead	455.0-460.0	465.0-470.0	33550
Strip Zinc #1	1610.0-1615.0	1511.0-1512.0	165930
Strip	5785.0-5785.0	5800.0-5800.0	8190
Antimony	1020.0-1015.0	1025.0-1035.0	10
Nickel	11065.0-11070.0	10925.0-10950.0	10454

(1/Conts per Troy oz. (\$ per tonne))

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
BULK & LIVERPOOL COMMODITY			
Average faststock prices at representative markets on September 7			
Live Pig Contract	Unit	Open	Close
Oct	100.5	100.5	
Sep	102.0	102.0	
Oct	102.0	102.0	
Nov	102.0	102.0	
Dec	102.0	102.0	
Jan	100.0	100.0	

Live Cattle Contract			
Oct	102.0	102.0	
Sep	102.0	102.0	
Oct	102.0	102.0	
Nov	102.0	102.0	
Dec	102.0	102.0	
Jan	100.0	100.0	

Live Hogs Contract			
Oct	102.0	102.0	
Sep	102.0	102.0	
Oct	102.0	102.0	
Nov	102.0	102.0	
Dec	102.0	102.0	
Jan	100.0	100.0	

Live Sheep Contract			
Oct	102.0	102.0	
Sep	102.0	102.0	
Oct	102.0	102.0	
Nov	102.0	102.0	
Dec	102.0	102.0	
Jan	100.0	100.0	

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

INVESTMENT TRUSTS				1990		FY	
	Assets	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Company	Net
	\$ mil	%					
150	56.7	18	28.7	118	100	Bay State	116
152	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
153	2.2	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
154	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
155	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
156	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
157	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
158	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
159	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
160	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
161	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
162	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
163	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
164	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
165	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
166	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
167	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
168	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
169	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
170	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
171	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
172	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
173	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
174	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
175	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
176	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
177	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
178	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
179	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
180	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
181	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
182	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
183	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
184	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
185	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
186	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
187	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
188	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
189	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
190	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
191	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
192	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
193	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
194	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
195	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
196	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
197	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
198	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
199	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116
200	17	17	33	122	100	Bay State	116

1990 High Low Company	Bid	Price Change	Open	High	Low	Vol	P/E	1990	
								High Low Company	Bid
110	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100
111	101		101	101	101	101	101	101	101
112	102		102	102	102	102	102	102	102
113	103		103	103	103	103	103	103	103
114	104		104	104	104	104	104	104	104
115	105		105	105	105	105	105	105	105
116	106		106	106	106	106	106	106	106
117	107		107	107	107	107	107	107	107
118	108		108	108	108	108	108	108	108
119	109		109	109	109	109	109	109	109
120	110		110	110	110	110	110	110	110
121	111		111	111	111	111	111	111	111
122	112		112	112	112	112	112	112	112
123	113		113	113	113	113	113	113	113
124	114		114	114	114	114	114	114	114
125	115		115	115	115	115	115	115	115
126	116		116	116	116	116	116	116	116
127	117		117	117	117	117	117	117	117
128	118		118	118	118	118	118	118	118
129	119		119	119	119	119	119	119	119
130	120		120	120	120	120	120	120	120
131	121		121	121	121	121	121	121	121
132	122		122	122	122	122	122	122	122
133	123		123	123	123	123	123	123	123
134	124		124	124	124	124	124	124	124
135	125		125	125	125	125	125	125	125
136	126		126	126	126	126	126	126	126
137	127		127	127	127	127	127	127	127
138	128		128	128	128	128	128	128	128
139	129		129	129	129	129	129	129	129
140	130		130	130	130	130	130	130	130
141	131		131	131	131	131	131	131	131
142	132		132	132	132	132	132	132	132
143	133		133	133	133	133	133	133	133
144	134		134	134	134	134	134	134	134
145	135		135	135	135	135	135	135	135
146	136		136	136	136	136	136	136	136
147	137		137	137	137	137	137	137	137
148	138		138	138	138	138	138	138	138
149	139		139	139	139	139	139	139	139
150	140		140	140	140	140	140	140	140
151	141		141	141	141	141	141	141	141
152	142		142	142	142	142	142	142	142
153	143		143	143	143	143	143	143	143
154	144		144	144	144	144	144	144	144
155	145		145	145	145	145	145	145	145
156	146		146	146	146	146	146	146	146
157	147		147	147	147	147	147	147	147
158	148		148	148	148	148	148	148	148
159	149		149	149	149	149	149	149	149
160	150		150	150	150	150	150	150	150
161	151		151	151	151	151	151	151	151
162	152		152	152	152	152	152	152	152
163	153		153	153	153	153	153	153	153
164	154		154	154	154	154	154	154	154
165	155		155	155	155	155	155	155	155
166	156		156	156	156	156	156	156	156
167	157		157	157	157	157	157	157	157
168	158		158	158	158	158	158	158	158
169	159		159	159	159	159	159	159	159
170	160		160	160	160	160	160	160	160
171	161		161	161	161	161	161	161	161
172	162		162	162	162	162	162	162	162
173	163		163	163	163	163	163	163	163
174	164		164	164	164	164	164	164	164
175	165		165	165	165	165	165	165	165
176	166		166	166	166	166	166	166	166
177	167		167	167	167	167	167	167	167
178	168		168	168	168	168	168	168	168
179	169		169	169	169	169	169	169	169
180	170		170	170	170	170	170	170	170
181	171		171	171	171	171	171	171	171
182	172		172	172	172	172	172	172	172
183	173		173	173	173	173	173	173	173
184	174		174	174	174	174	174	174	174
185	175		175	175	175	175	175	175	175
186	176		176	176	176	176	176	176	176
187	177		177	177	177	177	177	177	177
188	178		178	178	178	178	178	178	178
189	179		179	179	179	179	179	179	179
190	180		180	180	180	180	180	180	180
191	181		181	181	181	181	181	181	181
192	182		182	182	182	182	182	182	182
193	183		183	183	183	183	183	183	183
194	184		184	184	184	184	184	184	184
195	185		185	185	185	185	185	185	185
196	186		186	186	186	186	186	186	186
197	187		187	187	187	187	187	187	187
198	188		188	188	188	188	188	188	188
199	189		189	189	189	189	189	189	189
200	190		190	190	190	190	190	190	190
201	191		191	191	191	191	191	191	191
202	192		192	192	192	192	192	192	192
203	193		193	193	193	193	193	193	193
204	194		194	194	194	194	194	194	194
205	195		195	195	195	195	195	195	195
206	196		196	196	196	196	196	196	196
207	197		197	197	197	197	197	197	197
208	198		198	198	198	198	198	198	198
209	199		199	199	199	199	199	199	199
210	200		200	200	200	200	200	200	200
211	201		201	201	201	201	201	201	201
212	202		202	202	202	202	202	202	202
213	203		203	203	203	203	203	203	203
214	204		204	204	204	204	204	204	204
215	205		205	205	205	205	205	205	205
216	206		206	206	206	206	206	206	206
217	207		207	207	207	207	207	207	207
218	208		208	208	208	208	208	208	208
219	209		209	209	209	209	209	209	209
220	210		210	210	210	210	210	210	210
221	211		211	211	211	211	211	211	211
222	212		212	212	212	212	212	212	212
223	213		213	213	213	213	213	213	213
224	214		214	214	214	214	214	214	214
225	215		215	215	215	215	215	215	215
226	216		216	216	216	216	216	216	216
227	217		217	217	217	217	217	217	217
228	218		218	218	218	218	218	218	218
229	219		219	219	219	219	219	219	219
230	220		220	220	220	220	220	220	220
231	221		221	221	221	221	221	221	221
232	222		222	222	222	222	222	222	222
233	223		223	223	223	223	223	223	223
234	224		224	224	224	224	224	224	224
235	225		225	225	225	225	225	225	225
236	226		226	226	226	226	226	226	226
237	227		227	227	227	227	227	227	227
238	228		228	228	228	228	228	228	228
239	229		229	229	229	229	229	229	229
240	230		230	230	230	230	230	230	230
241	231		231	231	231	231	231	231	231
242	232		232	232	232	232	232	232	232
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258	248		248	248	248	248	248	248	248
259	249		249	249	249	249	249	249	249
260	250		250	250	250	250	250	250	250
261	251		251	251	251	251	251	251	251
262	252		252	252	252	252	252	252	252
263	253								

7%	0%	0%	1	38	84	58
86	45	42	4	57	45	78
148	121	120	2	8		58
13		8	2			

1931	1930		Per
	High	Low	
111	41	81	12 18 60.00
112	41	81	12 18 60.00
113	41	81	12 18 60.00
114	41	81	12 18 60.00
115	41	81	12 18 60.00
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197	41	81	12 18 60.00
198	41	81	12 18 60.00
199	41	81	12 18 60.00
200	41	81	12 18 60.00

• Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim
 payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and
 yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n
 Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or
 share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

• Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast dividend j Ex other k Ex notes l Ex scrip or

Year	Funds
1990	100
1991	100
1992	100
1993	100
1994	100
1995	100
1996	100
1997	100
1998	100
1999	100
2000	100
2001	100
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2099	100
2100	100

119.4	97.1	6	85.5	10
93.00	97.4	5	75.7	9
84.02	94.0	5	76.2	9
115.14	95.3	3	76.5	9
111.9	94.6	10	68.5	9
93.3	97.9	3	76.5	9
170.65	96.6	2	74.2	4
119.2	100.5	1	74.6	3
93.3	97.9	3	76.5	9
23.04	94.5	11	72.0	11
34.09	96.7	9	76.0	10
58.28	96.9	7	67.6	6

& ENERGY				
94.02	94.8	17	68.0	22
121.9	93.6	22	72.7	19
40.0	93.2	5	107.6	6
20.67	97.5	4	80.1	9
80.41	95.6	14	82.9	5
29.24	97.9	12	78.9	13
59.24	97.9	7	77.5	20
91.87	97.5	9	70.0	21
71.50	90.6	24	92.7	3
2.97	99.9	29	79.4	14
73.30	95.4	19	72.5	14
111.15	94.5	16	78.0	15
42.11	94.0	20	62.5	6
110.83	96.4	4	80.1	9
37.57	95.5	35	74.2	18
51.83	97.9	7	77.9	15
91.87	96.6	3	77.9	15
42	95.6	11	88.7	8
101.36	94.3	18	84.2	4
81.06	96.7	2	102.6	2
43.05	94.0	20	69.5	10
45.18	96.6	13	76.5	16
30.81	96.6	8	83.7	33
68.37	93.3	23	76.2	17
11.47	105.2	1	59.8	24

PROPERTY				
50.98	91.1	11	50.6	19
56.02	89.0	14	69.7	10
63.0	89.2	15	61.4	15
23.43	88.8	19	71.2	6
23.36	91.6	15	61.4	15
54.18	87.8	13	79.9	7
22.3	88.2	15	51.1	17
48.50	91.0	10	56.6	16
61.39	85.4	19	61.0	14
164.87	93.8	8	73.8	4
45.2	91.2	9	61.4	15
40.25	91.3	9	76.3	3
51.43	88.6	17	76.3	3
78.12	95.2	1	70.9	7
100.0	94.8	3	70.9	7
51.43	94.6	4	70.9	7
35.33	99.3	12	65.2	12
27.96	95.6	2	70.3	13
37.78	91.6	8	85.3	13

MARKET				
82.95	101.5	2	111.1	2
100.00	100.9	3	111.1	2
84.44	100.9	3	106.6	8
102.6	101.0	3	106.6	8
102.5	101.0	3	106.6	8
51.91	100.9	3	107.2	4
95.95	104.2	1	106.3	3
59.89	100.8	9	114.0	1

GED				
Section are based on				
but income re-invested.				
441.3	98.8	16	87.4	40
73.73	98.2	28	87.6	37
100.0	98.0	173	79.4	189
128.05	97.4	130	87.2	44
162.5	97.4	40	87.2	44
100.0	97.4	130	79.4	189
51.91	100.9	3	107.2	4
95.95	104.2	1	106.3	3
59.89	100.8	9	114.0	1

[illegible]

966	79 80 84	71
967	81 110	102
968	82 83	94
969	83 83	85
970	95 83	87
971	87 87	9
972	89 85	3
973	88 84	86
974	85 84	87
975	86 84	87
976	86 84	87
977	86 84	87
978	86 84	87
979	86 84	87
980	86 84	87
981	86 84	87
982	86 84	87
983	86 84	87
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999	86 84	87
1000	86 84	87

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

WEEKEND MONEY

American
jobless
rate
rises
to 5.6%High interest rates fail
to deter buyers from
having large mortgages

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

The British obsession with housing and willingness to take on burdensome mortgages still continues in spite of record interest levels according to statistics released by the Halifax Building Society this week.

The largest lender reported that house prices have fallen by 1.8 per cent over the past year. But the size of mortgages taken on continues to rise. The average house price in August was £66,397 with mortgage advances running at £45,000. This compares with the height of the housing market, in 1988, when the average property cost £62,000 and the new owners took on loans of about £39,500.

First-time buyers who are now paying on average 2.5 per cent less for homes this year than they were last summer are still borrowing more. Back in the autumn of 1988 first-timers borrowed on average £40,500 and paid £48,000. Now with prices at £48,900 they are borrowing £43,000.

Wages have risen typically by 20 per cent over the past two years but mortgage rates have also risen steeply from a low point of 9.5 per cent to 9.8 per cent in the summer of 1988 to the current 15.4 per cent for most building societies.

This means that in monthly terms most new mortgages are taking a higher proportion of monthly income than loans were at the height of the market. A £45,000 repayment loan now costs £497.80 a month. This compares with £362.01 a month on a £39,500 loan in late 1988, when interest rates had already risen 3 per cent from their low point. First-time buyers would be paying on average £471.39 a month now compared with £373.19 in late 1988.

At the height of the market, house prices in the Greater London area were five-and-a-half times income. Now with average incomes close to £16,000 the average property is still five times income. In the country as a whole the multiple on house prices is 4.4 times and steadily falling says Gary Marsh, manager of central planning and research at the Halifax. The society expects it will have fallen to four times average income by the end of the year.

In the North, where average earnings are slightly lower, house



For sales lower prices have not resulted in lower mortgages

prices are still substantially cheaper with average prices at £50,000. This gives a price earnings ratio of 3.5 times. Because of the lower ratio and the continued growth in incomes, the society is not predicting the same dramatic falls in house prices in the north that the Southeast and East Angles have suffered. Mr Marsh reported that sales in the North had quietened down significantly and that prices were pretty flat.

Borrowers seem to have ruled out a further rise in interest rates said Mr Marsh. The lower prop-

erty price for first-time buyers was not a reflection of lack of confidence, he suggested, but the fact that people without properties to sell could drive a hard bargain.

"Now is rationally the best time for first-time buyers to come into the market. We are being careful on the multiples we lend on, but there are no signs that borrowers are worried about taking on loans after the experiences of the last two years. Many see the market as an opportunity to buy a better property than they would otherwise be able to afford."

Home ownership round the world

THE lack of reasonably priced rented accommodation forces people in Britain to enter the property market earlier than in any other country (Lindsay Cook writes).

Those aged under 25 account for 35 per cent of mortgage holders in Britain, compared with 19 per cent in America and even lower in Europe.

In West Germany, for example, only 42 per cent of households are owner-occupied and people under 30 account for 9.5 per cent of the purchase price. Fixed mortgage rates are most popular, with the rate usually being guaranteed for five years at the outset.

In Britain, two thirds of households are owner-occupied with close to 10 million properties being mortgaged. The distribution of owner occupation is equally

spread throughout the whole country.

In France, official statistics claim that 52 per cent of homes are owner-occupied. Agricultural workers have the highest concentration at 75 per cent, then come the managerial and higher professional categories at 55 per cent, followed by ordinary employees at 34 per cent. The concentration of ownership is low in Paris and other urban areas and high in rural districts.

Spain has the highest ownership ratio at 85 per cent because real estate has been traditionally seen as a safe investment. Loans are usually made up of up to 70 per cent of the property's value on a repayment basis. They are mostly of 15 to 17 years in duration.

In Italy, where 60 per cent of existing homes are owner-occupied, mortgages for second-hand properties are usually limited to

50 per cent of the value. It is estimated that between 60 per cent and 75 per cent of housing finance comes from personal family savings.

Switzerland has the lowest owner-occupation rate in Europe. In 1980, it was just 27.5 per cent, 7 per cent lower than in 1960.

Eastern European nations claim home ownership rates as high as 80 per cent with state loans in some cases available at interest rates as low as 0.5 per cent to 3 per cent.

But homeowners face a change to market interest rates in the coming years as housing and housing finance are transformed from the old-style command economies to market-led systems.

In Hungary proposals to increase the rate of interest on existing loans from 3 per cent towards a market rate in excess of 20 per cent have suffered political

reversals. The issue is complicated by the fact that in Hungary and Poland it is not possible for lenders to take possession of a house where the borrower has defaulted.

In East Germany a reform of the land registration system is needed as there are many cases of three different people laying claim to the same property.

In Yugoslavia much housing investment has been financed by remittances from Yugoslavs working abroad.

The mortgage market in Britain enables people to start young because 100 per cent loans are available in some cases and 90 to 95 per cent loans are common. This means that only small deposits have to be saved, for the first property compared with other European countries where a third or more of the property's value is expected.

Loans stay high as
prices in US cool

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

PAYING the mortgage is set to cut deeper into most American household budgets this year, in spite of a sharp fall in house prices in some states.

Taken nationally, the cost of the typical family home has risen by 2.7 per cent. But in many areas, local economies have been hit by slumps in the defence, technology and financial services industries that have marked house prices sharply lower.

The fall is unlikely to translate into smaller mortgage repayments. Economists say the rising mortgage rate will mean Americans will pay more for their loans, even though they may need to borrow less for a house.

The mortgage rate climbed from 9 per cent to 10.7 per cent last month. Americans are now spending just under a quarter of their income on mortgage repayments. The average family house costs \$678,48 a month, about \$20 a month higher than last year, according to The Mortgage Bankers Association.

Bankers say there is evidence that families in the Nineties are no longer prepared to over extend themselves to buy a home.

Some economists believe house prices in New England have already been through recession.

John Tuocillo, chief economist with the National Association of Realtors, an 800,000-strong estate agents' association, said: "Depressed prices are a reflection of the general state of the economy,

which is likely to get worse if oil prices continue to rise."

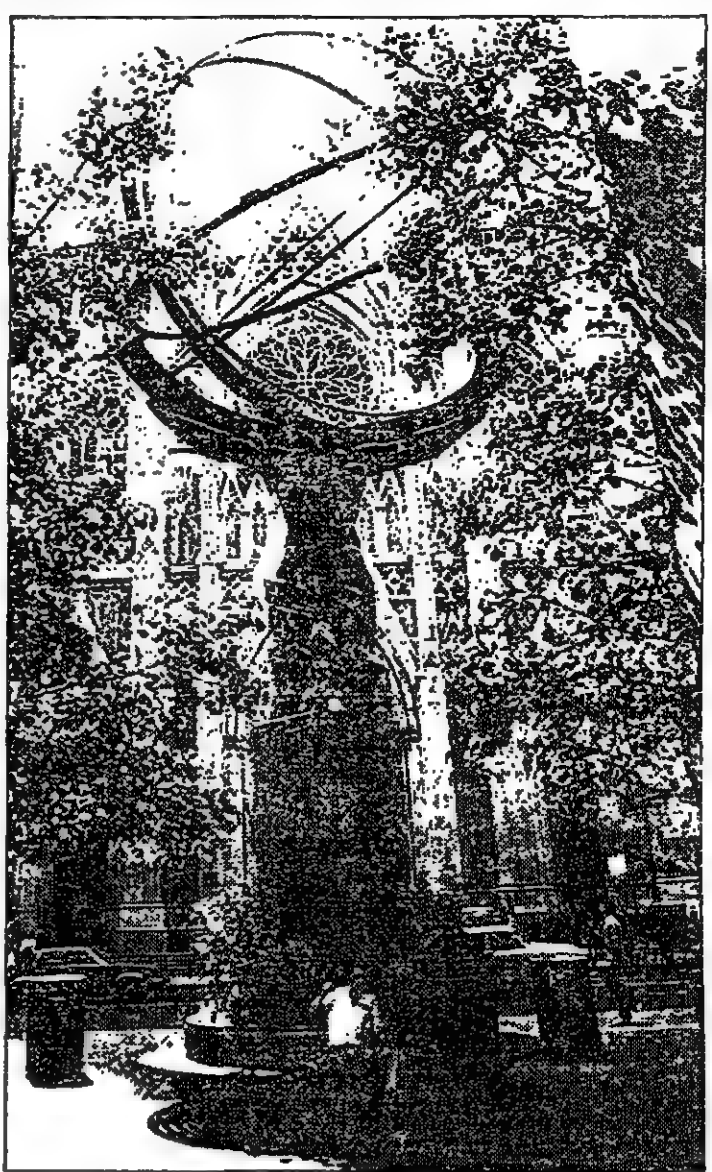
He says prices in Seattle, Washington, are beginning to cool after a sharp rise. Florida is mixed and in California prices are flat. The most striking examples of slump come from Manhattan where a \$1.7 million apartment, put on the market 14 months ago, sold recently for \$620,000.

In the New York region the price of a family house rose 150 per cent to \$194,000 between 1982 and mid-1988. A typical home now costs \$175,000, \$11,500 cheaper than last year. Family homes in Hartford, Connecticut, are \$5,700 cheaper this year at \$159,300.

But among the fastest rising areas is Orlando, Florida, where the typical American three- or four-bedroom home cost \$4,500 more than last year at \$83,300. Miami is marginally more expensive, up \$882 to \$89,000, but at \$70,000, Tampa is \$1,200 cheaper.

By far the most expensive family property prices continue to be in California where mid-range housing costs \$216,900.

Mr Tuocillo added: "We are expecting a slow down in California but not a drop. There are always more people who want to live there and if the prices force some to live further out in the desert, others will come in with the money to take their place. In the 1982 recession, prices just stopped rising in California, they didn't fall."



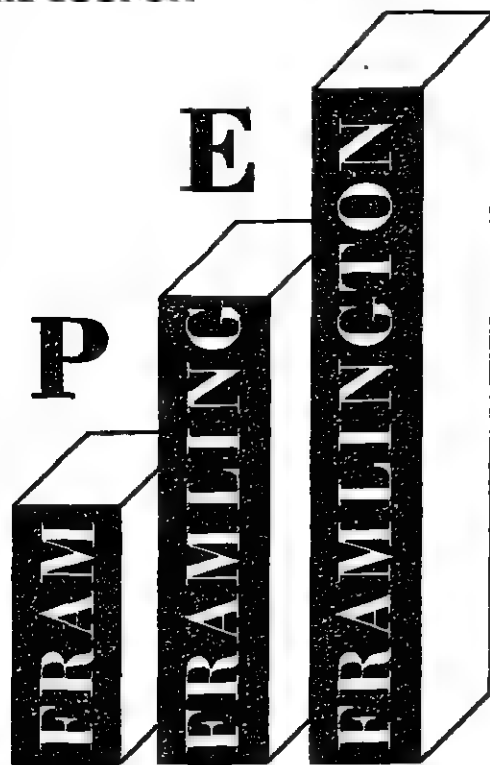
Fifth Avenue: still popular but prices in New York are falling

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd
AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00
AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00	AT&T LIFE INSURANCE	100.00	+0.00	+0.00
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Lift off: BAA promised a loyalty bonus at flotation to 'eligible' shareholders

Protests over BAA bonus

By BARBARA ELLIS

PRIVATISATIONS and large scale public flotations follow a similar pattern, with every deadline succeeded by a wave of protests from disappointed investors.

Over the years, as the government and its advisers have struggled to simplify form-filling procedures, investors' excuses have become more elaborate and inventive.

Loyalty bonuses have a delayed impact, being given only to shareholders who stay on the register between certain dates.

So it was when time ran out

on the BAA loyalty bonus qualifying period. In this case, loyalty, as such, was not enough. Shareholders who had bought in the July 1987 offer were entitled to one bonus share for every ten they held continuously until July 31 this year, but only if they had declared themselves eligible by answering "yes" in box 4 on the original application form.

Peter Pike, of Hertfordshire, complained: "My understanding is that some third party has to decide whether you are eligible for something. You

cannot judge yourself eligible. The fact that one has bought these shares and held on to them — and in my case bought additional shares — what else do you have to do?"

Mr Pike suggested it would have been possible for someone to fill in the form claiming eligibility, then sell the shares but still receive the bonus.

But a spokeswoman for the transport department rejected Mr Pike's arguments. She explained that eligibility declaration was simply confirmation that the applicant met the tests set out in the prospectus: being an individual, not a partnership, trust or company.

The spokeswoman added that two share registers have been kept for BAA, one for the loyalty bonus and one for the shares overall. This meant that anyone who had declared themselves eligible and then sold the shares before the deadline would have been removed from both registers.

Although the department had received a number of complaints about the BAA bonus shares, it would not reconsider the allocation.

"This is no different from any other privatisation," she said.

Policy sales hit big time

SALES of endowment policies hit the big time next Thursday. Three policies with sums assured totalling £1.25 million, plus an annuity of £100,000, will be on sale at an auction by HE Foster & Cranfield, which has pioneered sales of endowments (Rodney Hobson writes).

The auction is at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London.

Foster & Cranfield has run a series of auctions this year,

selling more than 70 policies at each with a range of size and maturity dates. Fifteen of the policies sold at its August sale achieved at least 40 per cent more than their surrender values and a few beat the surrender value by 60 per cent.

While buyers cannot be sure of future levels of bonuses, they are aiming to earn annual growth of 15-17 per cent after allowing for payment of future premiums, based on past performance.

Ombudsman rules against fraud claim

By JON ASHWORTH

THE insurance ombudsman was facing a new challenge this week, after ruling that investors who lost more than £300,000 to a fraudster will probably not be able to claim compensation.

Dr Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, was responding to pleas from investors who had been tricked into signing forged policy documents between 1986 and 1988. They believed they were taking out Capital Investment Bonds issued by National Provident Institution (NPI) and other life insurance companies.

Andrew Maher, who was jailed for four years at Southwark Crown Court in April, had applied for bonds issued by NPI and at least three other insurers. He had then removed the names, changed the policy numbers and sold them to his clients, insisting that cheques be made payable to him rather than the insurance companies.

The investors had argued that NPI and the others should pay compensation, since they thought they were taking out legitimate bonds. Now, the ombudsman has ruled that they appear to have no such claim.

"This is only a provisional finding," said Dr Farrand. "It is not final and gives investors the opportunity to respond. Such findings do quite often lead to a response, sometimes with material that may lead to a different view."

While the decision is good news for the life insurance companies, it also leaves them facing a dilemma. For if investors genuinely believed they were signing up with a well-known investment house, it could be argued that

the company has a moral duty to make amends.

Laurie Edmans, assistant general manager (marketing) at NPI, said: "The ruling is good in that it comes down heavily on our side, and shows that we have been acting properly. However, there is the question of whether or not we should make *ex gratia* payments in such a case."

"The main worry for life companies is deciding in what circumstances such payments should be made. In some ways, an order to pay compensation by the insurance ombudsman would be an easy way out, since it would avoid setting a dangerous

precedent. One investor who was laid off from the newspaper printing industry paid the bulk of his £70,000 redundancy package to Maher, believing it would be invested with NPI. He has spent two years fighting for compensation and was devastated by the ruling.

"I am 43, I have lost my home and I can't get a job," he said. "I have spent two years fighting this, and am now at my wit's end."

This is not the end of the story. The ombudsman may reconsider his ruling in the light of new evidence, and investors may take the matter to the courts.



Investors can respond to ruling: Julian Farrand

BRIEFINGS

■ The Electric and General Investment Company, one of the City's oldest investment trusts, has struck on an unusual way of celebrating its centenary. The trust, which was set up in 1890 and went on to float many of Britain's electric companies, is issuing a commemorative bedside clock to all its shareholders.

Henderson Administration took over management of Electric and General in 1948, and the company now has a broad international portfolio, aiming for capital growth.

■ The Minister Insurance Group has launched a home insurance policy providing up to £30,000 of home contents

cover. Loss of oil and loss of metered water are two unusual extras on the policy, which protects against standard risks like fire and flood as well as accidental breakage of televisions and home electronics. Accidental damage and personal possessions cover are offered as optional add-ons, and premiums may be paid interest-free each month.

■ Royal Life Estates has formed a new company to help British buying property abroad. Royal Life Estates Overseas is thought to be the first company of its kind to offer a comprehensive service throughout Britain. Advisers will help arrange mortgages,

choose a solicitor, and give tips on what to buy. Initially, the company will specialise in Spain, Portugal, France and Florida.

■ Lost and stolen credit cards account for nearly 70 per cent of credit card fraud, according to a worldwide review by MasterCard. There was a 15 per cent rise in fraud activity last year, with counterfeit fraud experiencing the most rapid growth, mainly due to a rise in crime in the Asia/Pacific region. "Never-received" cards and mail order/telephone fraud also increased significantly.

■ Midland Bank has introduced a higher interest rate tier of 11.75 per cent for savings of more than £25,000 in its Exchequer 90-day account. The higher rate is paid on the whole balance, with interest paid half-yearly in June and December. The account, launched in February, has attracted nearly £700 million.

■ General Portfolio Life Insurance has reduced the rates on its guaranteed income and growth bonds, cutting the top guaranteed income rate over one year to 11.15 per cent after tax. A net annual rate of 10 per cent is now available on guaranteed income bonds over four years. Net rates on the guaranteed growth bonds start at 11.15 per cent over one year, rising to 46.41 per cent over four years. The minimum investment is £1,000 and a monthly income option is available on balances of at least £5,000. For investments of £50,000 or more, the interest rate over one year has been revised to 11.6 per cent.

■ An inheritance tax planning package from M&G Life Assurance is aimed at what it sees as an increasing but under-exploited market. Insuring against a tax payment can be undertaken by single or regular payments. There is an option to increase cover by 50 per cent if inheritance tax rates are increased. The sum assured does not form part of the estate for tax purposes.

■ Sharebuying by post has been introduced by Diameter Stockbrokers of Guildford, Surrey, which specialises in low-cost sharedealing. Customers can send a buy request by letter enclosing a cheque for up to £3,000. Diameter will buy the optimum number of shares in the requested stock depending on the prevailing price. A contract note is sent within 24 hours. The charge is 0.5 per cent of stock value, subject to a minimum of £10.

■ A unit trust investing in UK cash deposits and other financial instruments was launched by Thornton Unit Managers this week. Existing Thornton unitholders can switch at no cost. There will be no initial charge and the annual management fee is 0.5 per cent.

■ Offshore centres of the Royal Bank of Scotland will be co-ordinated through an international private banking centre in Jersey as part of a thorough revision of the bank's offshore services. RBS wants to reinforce its position providing services worldwide.

£40 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE LOTS OF MONEY

With a unit trust savings plan you can build up a substantial investment in equities, and take the worry out of when to invest.

If you had started a £40 a month plan in M&G Recovery Fund in May 1969 you would have built up a capital investment of £153,182 by 31st August 1990 for an outlay of £10,200.

Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future. M&G Recovery Fund buys shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Start your plan now for as little as £40 a month. You can add to your investment at any time and are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The price of units and the income reinvested may fluctuate. As you can see from the table, the value of your investment can go down as well as up.

FURTHER INFORMATION

On 31st August 1990 the offered price for Accumulation units was 414p and the spread between the 'offered' price and the 'bid' price was 6.04p.

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the 'offered price' (at which you buy units) and the 'bid' price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. The Manager's annual charge is 1%. The Manager's annual charge, Trustee's fees (currently 0.05% plus VAT) and Registrar's fees (currently 0.08% plus VAT) based on the fund's mid-market value are deducted from gross income pro-rata on the first day of each Stock Exchange Account. There are no extra charges for the Savings Plan. Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into accumulation units of the fund at the price ruling on the close of business following receipt of payment. Income net of basic rate tax is automatically reinvested to increase their value. Higher-rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. Non-taxpayers can claim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue.

Capital gains tax 1990. 51. An individual's first £5,000 of realised capital gains is exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 are added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982 are

not now subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1982 are subject to indexation relief. You can buy or sell units on any business day by written instruction. When you realise your holding you will normally receive a cheque within a few days. The Trustee for Recovery Fund is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. The Fund is a wider-range investment and is authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Scheme Particulars and the Rules of the Plan will be sent on receipt of your application. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars, the Rules of the Plan or the most recent annual and half-yearly reports, before investing you can obtain them free of charge from: M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1JB. Tel: (0245) 266266.

Value of £40 a month invested from the launch of M&G Recovery Fund.

Year ended 31 December	Amount Invested	Building Society	M&G Recovery
23 May 69	£40	£40	£40
1969	280	285	304
1970	760	792	776
1971	1,240	1,324	1,924
1972	1,720	1,883	3,187
1973	2,200	2,504	3,118
1974	2,680	3,196	2,434
1975	3,160	3,930	4,825
1976	3,640	4,709	5,430
1977	4,120	5,542	12,536
1978	4,600	6,402	16,128
1979	5,080	7,458	19,831
1980	5,560	8,757	23,260
1981	6,040	10,084	27,690
1982	6,520	11,494	26,796
1983	7,000	12,843	38,694
1984	7,480	14,357	51,572
1985	7,960	16,135	65,543
1986	8,440	17,910	97,702
1987	8,920	19,798	122,427
1988	9,400	21,713	145,130
1989	9,880	24,267	178,404
31 Aug 1990	10,200	26,310*	153,182

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £40 a month in M&G Recovery Fund from 31st August 1985 (£2,400) would have grown to £2,893 by 31st August 1990 with net income reinvested. *Estimated using current interest rate levels.

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CLIENT DETAILS The Manager
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BANK SORT CODE (See your cheque book for details) PERSONAL ACCOUNT NO. _____ Name of your account _____
M&G DETAILS Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, 191 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0LN. (Branch Code 60-05-46). Account No. 55713270.
The sum of £ - 00 on the _____ day of _____ 19 _____ and continue to pay that amount on the _____ day of each month until further notice for the credit of M&G SECURITIES LIMITED (SAV ACCOUNT) QUOTING REFERENCE (leave blank) ALPHA BUISSEPC
Signature 1 _____ Date _____ Signature 2 _____ Date _____

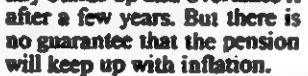


THE M&G GROUP

Handwritten note: 1000 in 1000

Spate of cheaper loans from mortgage lenders on offer to home buyers

"It is expected that with a general election coming up in the next year or two, interest rates will go down. This will also bring annuity rates down. So anybody not in a final salary scheme who is considering retirement in the next year or so might want to consider grabbing an annuity



Even with a money purchase company pension scheme, it may be possible

of £1,467 instead of £1,496.60 for every £10,000 invested. More serious, though, is the

Employees in a money purchase company pension plan will have their annuity bought

Female 60	£	Male 65	£
Swalwart Assurance	1,320.00	Confederation Life	1,510.00
Britannia Life	1,307.64	Nonwich Union	1,496.60
Confederation Life	1,307.00	Swalwart Assurance	1,496.60
Provident Capital	1,294.68	Generali	1,480.95
Nonwich Union	1,291.50	Provident Capital	1,480.92
London Life	1,282.56	Equitable Life	1,480.56
Equitable Life	1,282.56	Generali	1,480.56
Britannic Assurance	1,277.28	Britannia Life	1,480.20
NPI	1,272.00	San Alliance	1,479.60
Scottish Mutual	1,271.04	Britannic Assurance	1,464.24

Source: Finstar

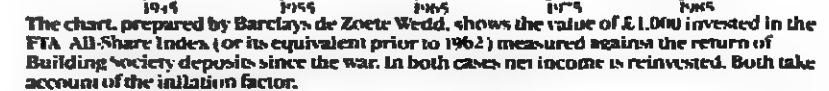
Those responding to this year's survey estimated that on average their family needed an income of nearly £14,000 a year, 18 per cent

Nearly a fifth of adults with children have no personal life

Although inflation has been rising, spending on life assurance is falling. The survey shows that the average family spends £23 a week keeping a car on the road and £13 on alcohol and tobacco, but under £10 on life assurance.

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Travellers plagued by account delays

By DAVID CROCKER

London
TRAVELLERS on an extended holiday to Britain who intend to open a bank account upon arrival should be prepared for delays, as I discovered after arriving with a two-year working-holiday visa.

I deposited a bank draft of more than £2,000 in the Aldwych branch of Lloyds Bank the day I arrived in London from Australia. I also applied for a Lloyds Bank payment card, which includes a Visa debit card, £100 cheque guarantee card, automatic teller machine facility and cheque book.

The bank said it would "see how the account runs for a few months" before issuing the payment card. A cashpoint card and cheque book would be issued, but not a cheque guarantee card.

After six weeks nothing had arrived, although the bank said they were sent about a week apart to the correct address. It had no record of the credit card application, though the clerk remembers helping me fill in the application form.

To withdraw money I had either to travel to Aldwych or pay a £5 fee to withdraw from another branch. This was to cover the cost of a clerk telephoning Aldwych to confirm the account's balance.

Frustrated with the bank's system, I approached Abbey National. I was told the facilities I wanted required a letter from my employer, a permanent address and references — anything to help the branch manager's discretion weigh favourably. Having a job definitely helps and a fixed address in Britain is vital.

counts can be paid only in the country of issue, which means if I use my Visa credit card I have to send money back to Australia or arrange for someone to ensure accounts are paid and that sufficient, accessible funds are available.

If I decided to travel first and work later, it would be impossible to produce a reference from a British employer. As far as giving a permanent British address, both financial institutions were not keen to send cards and personal identification numbers to another city where I intended to be about a month later.

A spokesman for Lloyds Bank said intending travellers should ask their own bank to write a letter of introduction and include personal banking and credit details, provide recent bank statements and a reference from the branch manager.

The bank would then contact an English branch of one's choice to establish an account and appropriate credit card and cheque facilities.

Lloyds does not charge a fee for this service but the turnaround time is "more than a month". To obtain an Access credit card as opposed to a Visa debit card, could still take up to six months.

If one arrives in England without having prepared, it is more time-consuming as Lloyds has to check personal banking history. The bank will want to see a passport, credit cards and references — anything to help the branch manager's discretion weigh favourably. Having a job definitely helps and a fixed address in Britain is vital.

A tale of banks in two cities

Paris and London have long captured the imaginations of travellers. But as Weekend Money discovered, foreigners still find the seemingly simple task of opening a bank account a frustrating experience



London: Lloyds' Aldwych branch put card on hold



Paris: endless delays cashing cheques from Britain

High price to leap language barrier

By DAVID TWEED

Paris
I KNEW it would not be easy opening a bank account in France. I had been warned by my friends: it was the French who invented the word bureaucracy.

What I was not prepared for was the endless delays I encountered obtaining money that had been paid into my account by a cheque drawn on an English bank.

This summer I opened an account at a Crédit Lyonnais branch in Paris. Among the papers I had to provide was proof I was actually paying rent, which came in the form of a letter from my flatmate, a copy of her passport, and a copy of a gas bill to her at that address.

I also had to provide proof I was employed in France. All this had to be in French and officially translated from English. The letter from my employer, all of two lines, cost me about Fr300 (£29) to have translated.

"It is not the number of words translated, monsieur, it is the official stamp you pay for," she translator kindly explained to me.

Once I had gathered my documents I took them to the bank where a helpful bank manager filled in my account application for me. I paid in some cash and a couple of cheques, the most important being for £2,000 from the Royal Bank of Scotland. The manager told me I would receive a cheque book in the mail and a cash card in about 15 days.

A month later I was still waiting for the £2,000 cheque to be cleared. I had found an apartment, and under French

rules, was obliged to pay a two-month deposit and two-and-a-half month's rent in advance. The deposit was Fr12,000, which I paid out of the cash I had deposited with Crédit Lyonnais, and the date by which I have to pay my first rent instalment, another Fr15,000, is fast approaching.

Why had the cheque not been cleared? Had it been lost, was the bank playing with the money on the foreign exchange market, would I be able to move into the apartment and, if not, would I see my deposit again?

After several harried phone calls to the head office of Crédit Lyonnais I discovered the answer. There is no European clearing system for cheques between EC countries.

What appears to have happened to my cheque is that Crédit Lyonnais had to send it to the Royal Bank of Scotland to have it cleared. After that, the Royal Bank of Scotland sends the funds to a bank in Paris with which it has clearing links and then the funds are sent to my branch of Crédit Lyonnais.

I have yet to find out what each of the three banks concerned will charge for being so helpful?

There is a way to circumvent this problem. A spokesman at Crédit Lyonnais recommended that customers ask the Paris branch to have the funds teleaxed directly to the London subsidiary of whichever French bank is opening the account and then the funds can be transferred within 48 hours to the branch in France.

How going automatic benefits the modern income bond holder

By a WEEKEND MONEY REPORTER

NATIONAL Savings is writing to 210,000 holders of its income bonds in an attempt to persuade them to have the interest paid directly into a bank or building society account.

The letter, intended to be "persuasive but not pushy", will aim to convince bond holders that both they and National Savings will benefit.

About three quarters of bond holders already have their monthly income paid direct into a personal account, and a previous attempt to win over the rest had some success. A third still receiving payments through the post switched over, cutting National Savings' postage bill by £300,000.

National Savings will have a test run by sending three different letters to a small cross-section of bond holders to discover which has most

effect. The most successful letter will then be sent out with the monthly warrants.

Income bonds were first issued eight years ago and because interest is paid gross, there has been an upsurge of applications since independent taxation for married women was introduced on April 6. The bonds pay 13.5 per cent annual interest and appeal particularly to non-working wives. Payment of one-twelfth of the annual interest is made on the fifth of each month.

Robert Hamblen, at National Savings, said: "The automated credit system saves us time and money. All the payments go out on one day but obviously cheques sent through the postal system, even if they go first-class, take longer. Then the bond holder has to go to the bank to pay it in. We hope more will find

automatic credit more convenient."

Deposit bonds, which also pay 13.5 per cent interest have the payments credited once a year when a certificate is sent to investors. These bonds were withdrawn from sale in November 1988 but have an investment life of 10 years.

● National Savings certificates in the 31st issue start to reach maturity this month, with a hefty drop in interest as they fall due. The certificates, which guaranteed a return of 7.85 per cent over five years, were sold from September 26 1985 to November 11 1986.

In their final year, they are earning 10.14 per cent but on maturity they switch to the general extension rate, the interest rate paid by National Savings on certificates that have matured but have not been cashed in. The current rate is only 5.01 per cent.

Children protected by insurance cover for maintenance payments

By RODNEY HOBSON

CHILDREN of parents who divorce or obtain judicial separations can be protected by a new insurance policy that covers maintenance payments.

For a monthly fee, maintenance is insured against sickness, accident, disability or death. A policy can be taken out by either parent and can cover maintenance payments by wives to husbands.

Consolidated Insurance Group has devised the divorce maintenance plan in conjunction with Sedgwick Financial Services, an independent financial adviser.

Initially it is available through solicitors who are members of Solicitors Financial and Property Services in England and Wales and Solicitors Financial Services in Scotland. Members of both groups offer financial services on matters such as mortgages, insurance and pensions.

The insurance guarantees to make payments due under a court order for a minimum of £100 a month and a maxi-

mum of £1,000, with the option of varying the amount if the court order is changed.

Cover is available for children from three to twenty years and the person insured must be not more than 56 years old and doing at least 16 hours work a week. Cover ceases at the age of 65 or if the maintenance order is terminated.

Michael Bell, chairman of the Scottish solicitors' organisation, says: "It has been a fundamental problem for many wives to get security of maintenance payments."

"This does not go totally down the road but it does provide some cover. In Britain there are 800,000 women surviving as single parents after divorce."

Payments are on a sliding scale according to age and the length of the period insured.

As a typical example, a man aged 39 with a three year old child would pay £31.64 a month for £400 cover for 15 years. If he died after six years, leaving nine years' unpaid, his

wife would receive a lump sum of £33,700. Insurance becomes expensive for older parents wanting cover for ten years or more.

They can incur a charge equal to 10 per cent of the maintenance payment. The cheapest payment for someone aged up to 40 needing cover for three years, is £4 for each £100 insured.

Apart from paying a lump sum in case of death or permanent disablement of the insured person, the policy will cover up to 12 monthly maintenance payments where the insured is off work through accident or sickness for more than 90 days. The insured person must return to full-time work for six months to qualify for a further period of benefit and a maximum of 36 months' benefit will be paid.

Mr Bell says he has asked the underwriters to look at cases of bona fide redundancy but the cost has still to be worked out. The policy has no surrender value and, like many insurances, it excludes

high risks such as suicide, aids, drug and alcohol abuse, war and dangerous occupations and sports.

The plan is intended to be included in the terms of maintenance orders although it is available to those already divorced and paying maintenance. Under current legislation, the payment of insurance premiums will not affect the tax treatment of maintenance payments but payers of maintenance who enjoy tax relief on the payments will not normally be entitled to relief when the insurance company has to pay out.

Divorces in England, Scotland and Wales total nearly 200,000 a year. In 70 per cent of cases children are involved.

David Blundell of Sedgwick says: "Often there is extreme financial hardship when husbands are unable to keep up maintenance payments. This new policy will provide security, particularly for the children caught in the middle."

Changes at junk mail watchdog

THE watchdog that oversees the sending of junk mail, has been restructured as the direct mail industry attempts to head off statutory control from Westminster and Brussels (Rodney Hobson writes).

Independent board members have been appointed to protect consumer interests and new members from the industry have joined in the first major shake-up of the Direct Mail Standards Board since it was formed in 1983.

Among the nine people joining the board this month are Janet Graham, vice-chairman of the National Consumer Council for the past three years and a member of the National Federation of Consumer Groups, Joanna Reynolds of the Consumers Association, Lady Scott, former chairman of the Scottish Consumer Council, and Professor Robert Pinker, a council member of the Advertising Standards Authority.

New appointments also include Judi Anne Gehlken, director of the Direct Mail Producers Association, and Ruth Naylor-Smith, chairman of the British Direct Marketing Association.

The board says: "They are also rightly concerned about the control of cowboy mailings from companies such as the well-publicised time-share promoters referred to by the Office of Fair Trading."

The board was established by the Advertising Standards Authority and the Post Office with support from the direct mailing industry.

It says: "Legislators in Westminster and Brussels have questioned the self-regulatory process with reference to some direct marketing practices. The challenge for the 1990s is to demonstrate that self-regulation is effective and supported by the entire industry."

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SAVE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT BOOK

Direct debits ease soaring bills for policies

RIISING insurance bills are pushing more householders to consider paying annual charges by monthly direct debits (Rodney Hobson writes).

As Clare Hunt at Bacs, the clearing house for major banks and several building societies, says: "The average British household, already hit by crippling interest rates and the poll tax, has been confronted with another strain on its finances."

"That is, a predicted 16 per cent rise in insurance premiums over the next year."

Many bank current account holders are reluctant to pay bills by direct debit because they lose control of payments out of their own money.

However, while money is tight using

monthly payments instead of paying bills up front represents a method of effectively borrowing money, often at favourable interest rates.

With insurance, life cover has traditionally been paid in monthly instalments while non-life insurance has been on the basis of an annual premium.

Guardian Royal Exchange, for example, adds 6 per cent to premiums paid monthly, which works out at an annual percentage rate (APR) of 13.7 per cent.

A spokesman comments: "Insurance is becoming a significant bill and the option to spread over 12 months is an attractive feature."

The charge is in line with others in the

insurance sector, although some companies spread the payments over ten rather than 12 months.

Guardian Royal Exchange says this method of payment is gaining in popularity, with nearly 40 per cent of non-life insurance now paid in instalments.

Bacs says nationally ten million non-life policies are paid through instalment schemes, the majority by direct debit.

Miss Hunt says: "These schemes actually represent good value. Competition is such that the interest charged is low and represents cheap borrowing in today's market."

"A household or motor insurance loan generally has an annual percentage rate of less than 16 per cent, considerably less than the

cost of using an overdraft or credit card."

Some monthly payments are a straight gain for the householder. The community charge and water rates, which fall due at the start of the financial period, can normally be paid in instalments at no extra charge.

However, budget payments for utilities, while helping householders to plan their finances, are not necessarily of benefit financially, even though British Gas, the electricity companies and British Telecom do not charge for the service.

Schemes which involve paying bills monthly instead of quarterly in arrears take cash out faster, especially when the utility over-estimate rather than under-estimate the likely bill.

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WEEKEND MONEY

BES comes to the aid of local authority recruitment

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITAIN'S local authorities have been given a new weapon in their drive to recruit teachers and other skilled workers in short supply. Investors may also benefit from the project, which stands out in the new season of business expansion schemes.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has become the first local authority in Britain to lend its name to a BES scheme. The £5 million that may be raised will be used to buy homes for teachers, engineers and planning officers who are presently in short

supply due to a lack of accommodation.

The Royal Borough has set a maximum of £170,000 aside towards launch costs, and has first pick of properties for its staff. Jonathan Wheeler, the mayor, said the venture would go a long way towards helping solve the housing and staffing crisis.

The shortage of suitable rented accommodation means that urgently needed key professional staff have difficulty relocating to accept offers of employment in The Royal Borough. Similar problems exist for

staff already employed who are forced to move in order to obtain suitable accommodation.

Of 50 homes and flats initially planned, nearly half have been set aside for teachers. The remainder will be used to house engineers and other essential staff including surveyors and accountants.

Investors have traditionally been attracted to BES schemes by the promise of higher rate tax relief and freedom from capital gains tax on any profits. How they recoup their money back after the minimum five-year term often proves difficult, since companies

either have to seek a stockmarket flotation or find a buyer.

Kensington and Chelsea investors may have an easier ride. The Addition Housing Association has announced its intention to make shareholders an offer in five years, probably at a price more beneficial to investors than if the properties were sold on the open market. This could be arranged because the company would not have to pay tax on disposal profits nor incur winding up costs at the time.

A note of warning to investors is that there is no such thing as a

firm exit route, and the association has simply said that it hopes to make an offer. Investors in Airways Homes were given a similar indication to begin with by the Airways Housing Trust, but the runaway success of the issues made such an exit less likely.

Kensington and Chelsea has been prepared by the same team that devised Airways Homes and shares many of its features, but analysts say the prospect of a firm exit route seems more certain. The Addition Housing Association is much larger than the

Airways Housing Trust and is better placed to make good its promise.

Anthony Yaggaroff of Best BES Advice said the issue appeared to be well-structured. "It is a professional issue with a very good housing association backing it. But the intention to buy investors out is not a binding option."

John Spiers of BES Investment said the buy-back programme appeared sound, but was less happy with the number of directors on the board. "Three directors are more than enough, yet the issue has five directors who stand

to earn £150,000 between them over five years."

Mr Spiers said Kensington and Chelsea was a good middle ground issue. "The real thing to be looking for in these deals is either the presence of highly motivated entrepreneurs or a guaranteed exit route," he added.

The issue was launched this week and is due to close on October 13, if not previously oversubscribed. The minimum investment is £1,000. Investors who subscribe before October 6 may be able to carry up to £5,000 into the 1989-90 tax year.

Student loans to supplement local authority grants come into play

By RICHARD IRVING

THE government-owned Student Loan Company opens its doors for the first time on Monday.

Ronald Harrison, the managing director, expects to lend about £200 million to about 500,000 students during the coming months, as the loan option is taken up.

The scheme will operate in addition to the existing local authority grants, although grants will be frozen in the future at this year's level. The grant is means-tested, so that students whose parents earn less than £11,500 a year can claim up to a maximum of £2,845, while those whose parents earning above £25,000 receive nothing.

Unlike the maintenance grant, however, any student in full-time higher education can qualify for a loan.

In the first year the maximum loan will be £460 for those living in London, £420 for those living outside the capital, and £330 for those still living at home.

Students can apply for a loan once they start the new term - application forms and a certificate of eligibility will be available from the college administrator.

Mr Harrison and his team expect to be able to process each request in under three weeks.

Although the loans will not carry interest charges as such, they will be index-linked. This means that their value will increase in line with inflation, as measured by the retail prices index each August.

Students taking out a loan in the current academic year will, therefore, have to pay an effective interest rate of 9.8



per cent on the value of the loan. This rate will operate from the day the money is credited to the student's bank account and will not change until next August.

But should the government's anti-inflation policy prove successful - and with City forecasts for next year averaging about 6 per cent economists think it likely - students could well be looking at lower rates in future years.

The loan may be repaid over a five- to seven-year period, depending on the length of the course, with the first monthly direct debit starting in the April after graduation.

But should a student be

unable to find work immediately, a 12 month deferment can be applied for.

Those earning less than 85 per cent of the national average wage - currently £11,500 - can also apply for deferment although in both cases, the value of the loan will be subject to adjustment for inflation in the meantime.

The government's student loan scheme may not be able to compete with the big banks' slick student packages, which typically offer a £300 interest-free overdraft facility as well as the more gimmicky coach passes and record vouchers, but it is available each and every academic year.

Sharp students may also

find a prospective employer willing to pay the loan off as part of a "welcome" package. The competition for young graduates is likely to be stronger by the time today's freshers are looking for jobs and big institutions may well be willing to pay off student loans.

Personal overdrafts, on the other hand, are likely to remain just that - personal. Potential applicants can obtain a leaflet on the loan scheme from most larger post offices or by telephoning 0800 373220.

Alternatively they can seek further advice direct from the Student Loan Company on 0345 300900.

Incomes on a par with school fees

By LINDSEY COOK

MONEY EDITOR

FAMILY incomes have risen in line with independent school fees over the past 10 years, according to a survey published this week. Educational costs have remained static at 23 per cent of the family budget, after mortgage payments have been met for the 12,000 clients of Fraser Marr Financial Services.

The company reported that average fees had increased by 329 per cent over the decade to give an average of £2,618 a term now. But 68 per cent of mothers now work compared with 46 per cent in 1980.

The annual earnings of principal wage earners were given as £20,000 to £30,000 in 30 per cent of cases, with 79 per cent earning more than £20,000.

Financial assistance from grandparents has decreased since 1980, with only 45 per cent of families reporting help with fees compared with 68 per cent ten years ago. Other relatives' help was 3 per cent compared with 13 per cent a decade ago.

Tony Murrell, managing director of Fraser Marr, said the main reason for the reduction was the abolition of all except charitable deeds of covenant in the 1988 Budget.

Many grandparents had made gifts to children that had been boosted by the Inland Revenue until Nigel Lawson had stopped new covenants being drawn up.

Gold beckons as a safe haven for investors as Gulf tension continues

By COLIN CAMPBELL

MIDDLE East tension and fears of war have put the gold price back "on alert", and re-kindled investment interest in gold as a protective haven.

Gulf events have also led to a sharp rise in the level of enquiries about unit trusts devoted to investment in gold shares, though British investors may well wonder why the gold price appears to have passed them by.

In dollar terms, the London gold price in August rose from an opening \$373.25 an ounce (the day before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait) to touch a month's high of \$414 an ounce on August 21, only to fall back to the \$355 an ounce level by month end.

In sterling terms, London gold started the month at £201 an ounce, reached its best level of £216.47 an ounce on August 14, touched its lowest level of £196.29 an ounce on August 28, and finished the month a shade over the £203 an ounce mark.

The dollar holder of gold made money in August while the sterling holder missed out because of movements in currency.

Investment fascination with gold has, however, given most of the unit trusts associated with gold shares one of their best months for some time and the £56.9 million James



Gold: price back on alert

Capel Gold and General Fund enjoyed an inflow of £2.7 million in August and saw redemptions of £1.7 million, to give it a August net inflow of £1 million.

The paradox, however, is that British trusts are not allowed to invest directly in bullion.

While the dollar price of gold has risen on world markets, the dollar has been weak in foreign exchange markets thereby robbing British investors of the best of the ride.

The gold shares in which funds do invest are essentially South African issues, and during August there was a fresh wave of concern about political events in South Africa that, in turn, made investors and fund managers

generally cautious about the market.

By contrast, American funds related to gold must have thought Christmas had come early.

Several American gold equity and bullion funds said sales have vaulted since August 2, the day that Iraq invaded Kuwait, with the daily rate of funds invested doubling in August and the level of customer enquiries tripling.

British investment managers continue to argue that a certain percentage of investment funds should still be invested in gold-related issues, and believe that should Gulf events turn into war then the London gold price will go higher as international investors panic.

In turn, gold shares, and therefore fund valuations, will increase.

However, if the dollar remains weak against sterling, then much of the run in the gold price will pass British investors by.

Meanwhile, seasoned hands are digging into their history books to argue that gold has a seasonal element about it, and that in the past four years those who bought gold in mid-August have found to their profit that they made money by mid-December.

Christmas 1990 may, after all, come early for fans of gold.

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A taxing problem for small charities

By BARBARA ELLIS

INDEPENDENT taxation is likely to have an unwelcome delayed effect on some small charities that have, so far, ignored its implications.

Next April, married women who became non-taxpayers this year, due to the personal allowance granted under the new system, will start to receive demands for tax on charity covenants.

This is because taxpayers can make regular, agreed payments to charities net of the theoretical amount of basic rate tax they have paid on the money. The charities can then reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue. But as non-taxpayers have not paid any tax, the Revenue will reclaim the amount it refunds to the charity from the covenant holder.

The Save the Children Fund told its covenanters in April of the change. Oxfam receives about £9 million of its total £60 million income in covenants and bankers orders, and alerted its covenant holders in March. Joe Saxton, of Oxfam, said the reaction from people paying covenants to several charities seemed to show that few were well prepared for the tax change.

This was borne out by the experience of a reader who has been trying unsuccessfully for some months to obtain information from the charity to which she pays covenanted donations. She found this particularly galling as the charity's work is focused on precisely the group of older married women most likely to have become non-taxpayers in April.

Windsor in the shade as doldrums hit unit trusts

By RUPERT BRUCE

WHILE the dismal performance of unit trusts over the past year has largely followed that of the underlying stock markets, it has also revealed weaknesses in the performance of at least one investment management company.

Windsor Trust Managers is a shell company, having sold responsibility for the management of its 12 unit trusts in July. Nevertheless, two of the unit trusts it founded and ran are languishing among the worst 20 performers from all 1,300 British unit trusts.

The Windsor Smaller Companies Trust was the worst performing unit trust in the year to September 1, according to Finsat, the performance measurer. The trust has lost 60 per cent of its value, and held such companies as Bendis, now suspended, and Parkfield, which is in receivership.

Windsor's other unit trust in the bottom 20 was the Convertible and Equity, which lost 44 per cent of its value.

Stephen Dowds, head of international equities at Capital House Investment Management, which has bought the trusts, finds the under-performance surprising because the convertibles in the fund should have helped it outperform most British shares.

However, the fund management team was only four strong, including David Lis, Windsor's managing director, and had to handle 12 diverse funds.

There is a stark contrast between the performance of Japanese funds over the last year. While the Schroder Ja-



Huge loss: David Lis, Windsor's managing director

pan Smaller Companies and the NM Japanese Smaller Companies have been the best two performers, larger Japanese unit trusts are among the worst. Ed Merner runs the Schroder fund and ran the NM fund until April 1 this year. He has worked for Schroder in Tokyo since 1974 and has spent most of his time visiting smaller Japanese companies.

The performance pattern among Japanese funds mirrors the Tokyo stock market, where the index of larger companies has fallen by 37 per cent in the last year, and the index of smaller companies has fallen by only 5 per cent. But the Japanese Over The Counter Market, which trades still smaller companies, has shown a rise in value.

Denis Clough, who manages the Schroder Tokyo Fund, said: "Now people should be looking towards larger stocks and the blue chip end of the market."

"Japanese smaller companies are now more expensive than their larger brethren, when judged by earnings multiples."

ity have cash funds in the top 20, which have shown returns of 15 per cent gross and 11 per cent respectively.

The Whittingdale Gilts Trusts stand out as high performers, with two showing returns of about 8.5 per cent. Jon Baile, a director of Whittingdale Unit Trust Management, said the company had a more "positive" style of management than most gilt managers. It takes a view on the direction of interest rates and invests accordingly. Many gilt managers just buy a spread of gilts and hold them to maturity.

Over the past five years, Australian unit trusts have performed worst. MIM Britannia's Australian growth is near the bottom of the pile after having a large investment in small Australian gold-mining companies.

John Payne, a fund manager, said the 1987 stock market crash "blew the fund out of the water". Some of the smaller gilt companies never recovered.

The two best performers over five years are still the two Japanese smaller companies trusts managed by Mr Merner.

Worst Performance

Over 1 year	% down	Over 5 years	% down
Windsor Smaller Companies	60.2	Target Australian	79.5
Brown Shipley Recovery	50.1	Waverley Australian Gold	56.1
Aetna Financial & Prop	48.7	MIM Brit Australian Grth	50.0
Corinth Property Share	48.9	Target Gold & General	32.4
Morgan Gren Japan Tracker	45.5	LAS North American Equity	34.4
MGM Special Sit Growth	44.6	G Mason St Vincent US Grth	24.1
James Capel Japan Index	44.5	Waverley Canadian Bal Grth	24.1
Windsor Convert & Equity	44.3	Henderson American Sm Cos	20.7
Royal Life Jap Ind Tracking	44.3	Abbey US Emerging Cos	20.0
Lazard & General Up Index	44.3	Royal Trust FPI Hong Kong	17.9
Aetna Smaller Co's Growth	43.5	Frankington Amer Sm Cos	14.9
TR Special Opportunities	43.0	Henderson Amer Recovery	14.7
Greyn Capital	42.6	Barclays US American	12.5
MIM Brit US Smaller Cos	42.3	NW US Smaller Cos	9.7
GRE Property Share	41.6	Mercury Amer Income	9.4
Waverley Australian Gold	41.5	Buckmaster International	8.8
Royal Trust Smaller Cos	41.5	Barclays US American	8.8
Hill Samuel Smaller Cos	40.7	MIM Brit US Smaller Cos	8.7
M&G Japan & General Acc	40.5	Equity & Law North Amer	8.6
Clerical Med Special Sits	40.3	Royal Trust Smaller Cos	8.6
Tyndal Capital Defender	40.2	MIM Brit Gold	8.7
Murray Smaller Companies	40.1	Fidelity American Equ Inc	8.4
Brown Shipley Smaller Cos	40.0	M&G American Smaller Cos	5.7
MIM Brit Property Share	40.0	BG America	5.5
Barclays Unit Jap & Gen	40.0	EPM Resources	5.4

Source: FINSAT
Offer to bid, income reinvested.

Holiday insurance differs on Aids

HOLIDAY brochures offering next summer's breaks are already available, as are travel insurance policies for those making early bookings. While the policies may appear to have the same exclusion clauses for Aids and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) they apply widely differing interpretations (Barbara Ellis writes).

The exclusion clause commonly reads: "No section of this policy shall apply in respect of any claim arising directly or indirectly from... any injury, illness, death, loss, expense or other liability attributable to HIV and/or any HIV-related illness, including Aids and/or any mutant derivatives or variations thereof, however caused."

A spokesman for Norwich Union, which provides cover for Thomson's package tours, said the clause would apply only to the insured people themselves or anyone due to travel with them, unless they had already known of a terminal diagnosis due to Aids that was likely to lead to cancellation when the insurance was taken out.

John Baker, travel manager of Bishopsgate, Lunn Poly's insurer, said the exclusion clause would be used purely against the insured person: "We couldn't make the insured person responsible for anyone travelling with them."

He added that Bishopsgate would not invalidate a claim if an insured person's relative became ill or died of Aids or HIV-related conditions, saying that this was beyond their control.

But Eagle Star's Home and Overseas division, which insures Inntown holidays, would refuse claims for cancellation

caused by the illness or death of relatives or friends as well as the insured or travelling companions.

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WEEKEND MONEY

LETTERS

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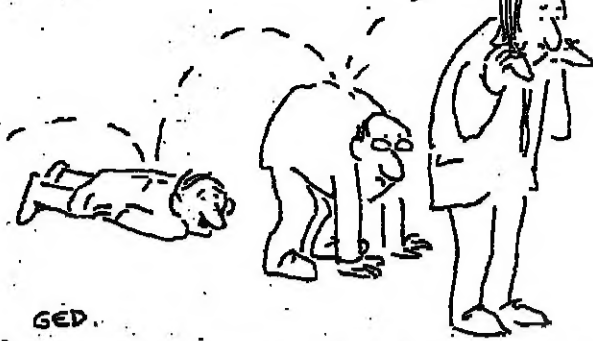
From Dr Jack Hoppe

Sir, I have been a customer, albeit a small one, of one of our major banks for 40 years. Throughout this time the bank has carried out financial transactions on my behalf including many involving National Savings Certificates.

Thus I was somewhat perturbed when I visited the bank on August 31 to learn that they no longer provided a service to customers which involved National Savings Certificates. I was informed that I should remove the relevant certificates from the bank and carry out the transactions myself. They could not provide the necessary forms and referred me to a post office.

I am quite aware of the mechanism for the encashment and reinvestment of National Savings Certificates, but oh for a return to the caring personal service given by the bank in former times. Surely technological advance should be an aid and a spur to an improved face to face service and not a deterrent. Or is it that the banks are no longer interested in small customers other than to in-

...ofcourse it's
the small investor
has got me where
I am today



GEP

duce them to borrow money by advertising means both unsolicited and unwelcome. Perhaps banks should rethink their attitudes to the small customer - a little less emphasis on selling a little more emphasis on service. It could be that we need a few more "old-fashioned", caring and helpful managers who generate an aura of reliability and experience and a few less

of the slick-suited, smooth but very fast-talking, pushy young "with-it" managers who do little to instill any confidence in the customer other than that they are clearly looking to the next step in their career.

Yours faithfully,
JACK HOPPE,
Vikings,
5 Hazlett Drive,
Maidstone,
Kent.

Friend of the standing order

From Mr W.L. Weir

Sir, British Telecom advise me that they will no longer accept budget account payments by standing order after the end of September, but only payments by direct debit.

One only has to read your columns for arguments against paying by direct debit. Surely this is gross interference in the relationship between me and my bankers? What is it to do with British Telecom whether I instruct my bankers to pay on individual occasions by cheque, or whether I save my memory by giving them a standing order?

I would be interested to know how many of your readers agree with me. Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR WEIR,
1 Hallgate,
Cottingham,
Humberside.

Menace of debits

From J. Roberts

Sir, Direct debits for bills which fluctuate in amount, for example gas, electricity and telephone are a menace.

The companies always overestimated what I would spend and I could not get them to reduce the figures despite repeated telephone calls and letters.

I ended up in credit to British Gas for £150! Finally, in desperation, I cancelled them but even that was not the end of the story.

The bank (Barclays) continued to pay them and when I queried this I was told that the companies had changed the number I was paying on and it was up to me to get in touch with them and it was nothing to do with the bank!

So beware - joint incompetence can give rise to a costly situation. Yours faithfully,
J. ROBERTS,
London.

● Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Dealing in small parcels of shares

From Mr James Hodsmann

Sir, From time to time your financial columns make reference to the difficulties faced by the private investor in seeking to deal efficiently.

The reader could be forgiven for thinking that it is the small size of his holdings which makes his business unattractive to the stock market, but I think my own experience demonstrates otherwise.

In selling a parcel of 2,000 shares in a medium-sized

Hodsmann's bought another 20 shares



public company I received some 10 per cent less than the publicly quoted price (which, incidentally, was particularly stable over the period in question).

The broker's explanation was that the quoted rate was available for 1,000 shares but that the market-maker insisted on a lower price to cover the risk of the larger deal.

I must say it came as a surprise to me that the mighty City of London is over-awed by a £6,000 transaction.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES R. HODSMAN,
32 Fulford Park,
York,
North Yorkshire.

Rewards for halting credit card abuse

From Mr A.G. Smith

Sir, Owing to a simple clerical error by a bank I have received, unenclosed, an unsigned credit card (presumably a renewal) intended for another. As requested by the issuer, I have defaced it and returned it to them; for which I hope the account holder is duly grateful.

It has occurred to me, however, what a damned cheek these finance companies have to expect members of the general public to expend time, effort and the costs of telephone calls and letters in putting right their problems. It is time they introduced a reward system so that card misuse can be discouraged. A token payment would probably ensure that

many cards that "go missing" or get "misused" after being sold-on in the pub for a few pounds, would in fact be returned to them without incurring losses.

I suppose insurance is cheaper, but why don't their insurers insist on such a scheme?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN G. SMITH,
68 Denmead House,
Highcliffe Drive, SW15.

□ According to the Banking Information Service some banks do make awards to members of the public in these circumstances. Most credit card issuers also offer rewards to sales staff and bank staff who retain cards that have been reported stolen.

Building societies and funds at risk

From Miss J. Neenan

Sir, I would be grateful for some advice. Is there any way that building society savings are at risk? Is there any way that such an institution can "go out of business", and an investor's money lost?

Yours sincerely,
J. NEENAN,
5 Dove Close,
Wood Green,
Widnesbury, West Midlands.

□ Under the statutory investor protection scheme set up under the Building Societies Act 1986 all investors are guaranteed 90 per cent of the first £20,000 in the event of a society's failure. In the case of joint accounts each individual would be entitled to the limit. A single investor with several accounts would be limited to a total of £18,000. The scheme has never had to pay out and the best protection for investors is that societies are closely regulated by the Building Societies Commission. They have

strict limits placed on them on the amount of risky business they can undertake. If a small society were in financial trouble it is more likely that a large society would take it over than let it go to the wall.

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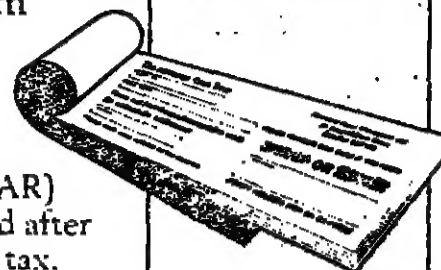
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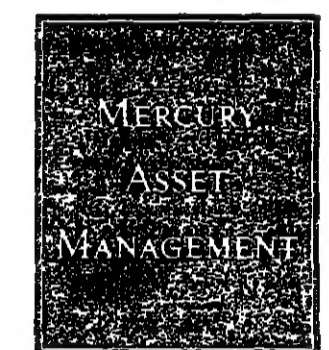
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Pensions house needs order



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

A woman who thought she had taken out a personal pension of £200 a month at the beginning of April, discovered this week that none of the payments had been taken from her bank account by direct debit as agreed. The policy was simply not in operation.

She asked the accountant who had arranged the pension plan for an explanation. He said it was a real problem: those investment companies who could set up such a pension plan quickly were not good bets. Their investment records left a lot to be desired.

On the other hand, he said, those he could recommend as being a good investment had a long backlog of cases. Industry spokesmen did not disagree with his summary of the situation.

The woman is worried about the possible loss of tax relief on her pensions premiums if they continue not to be made. She is also anxious that she has enough money in her account to cover all the premiums now owed. One day all those premiums will be called in at once and she must keep a record of missed or uncollected payments so that on the

day her investment company decides to exercise the direct debit mandate, there are sufficient funds to cover the total.

Norwich Union admits it has ongoing problems with personal pensions administration. Two years ago, over two-thirds of its business involved endowment policies or other mortgage-related business. Only a quarter of its turnover was connected with pensions. In the last two years, the positions of the two sectors have been reversed. Personal pensions have outstripped the best projections to take over the bulk of the company's business. New staff have been trained as fast as possible, but still not quickly enough to cope with the backlog.

A spokesman for Norwich Union says the pensions side of the business continues "at a vast level". The increased interest stemmed from the introduction of personal pension plans in the summer of 1988. This was fol-

lowed in April by the government deadline for employees to leave the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme and receive the maximum bonus. Millions of employees opted for the money.

Norwich Union says the rush caused the first administration problems. Eighteen months later, Norwich Union continues with this complaint line. It claims policyholders will not suffer because of the administrative problems. When a policy finally goes ahead, it says, investment will be allocated as if all the premiums had been made on their due dates.

Norwich Union claims it is "in most part losing a little on each

policy". Where markets had been in decline, the loss was less. If someone were to have problems with the Inland Revenue because of the delays, the company would look into the possibility of compensation. A spokesman said: "We have got to put our house in order." He is right. There is no excuse for delay.

One stop

It looks like the end of the line for the Unit Trust Ombudsman scheme, two months after the largest unit trust group, M&G, confirmed it would no longer continue its support.

Perpetual says it will also leave the scheme. Two other large groups, Save and Prosper and Kleinwort Benson, are poised to follow.

The problem for the large groups has been the high cost of running the Unit Trust Ombudsman's office in the two years it has been in operation.

From the consumer's point of view, there are also grounds for grievance. Few complaints have actually reached the Unit Trust Ombudsman, Adrian Parsons. But this does not mean that the Unit Trust industry is blameless. Far from it. The reason is the sheer complexity of the complaints procedure.

First, there is the Insurance Ombudsman who deals with complaints about insurance companies. Many insurance companies sell unit trusts.

Then there is the Investment Referee, who deals with complaints about brokers and members of Investment Manage-

ment Regulatory Organisation (Imro). Many members of Imro are unit trust companies.

And then there is the Unit Trust Ombudsman, whose brief is to investigate maladministration of unit trusts. His office is often bypassed by the other two watchdog bodies.

Only 60 unit trust groups out of the 160 management companies selling unit trusts are members of the Unit Trust Ombudsman scheme. With large groups like M&G deciding to leave, the whole scheme is now in jeopardy.

Finally, investors can seek help with complaints about investment companies directly from the self-regulatory organisations.

This is the ideal opportunity to scrap the present complex system of multiple justice and substitute a proper complaints procedure for all types of investment.

It is not sensible that customers should first have to decide who is at fault.

When maladministration occurs, the customer should look to a single ombudsman for the entire investment industry, and be sure that justice will be done.

Cash customers lose out after holiday firm fails

THE collapse of Vacances, the unlicensed tour operator that specialised in holidays in French gites, has driven home the dangers of paying for holidays in cash. But even paying by credit card may not have been enough to prevent financial loss, as some Vacances customers have discovered to their cost.

As the company passed into provisional liquidation this week, creditors were told they could expect little back for their money. Dennis Cross, of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, who was appointed provisional liquidator at a meeting in Cambridge, said that massive debts, including an overdraft of £54,000, would take the lion's share of the few assets that remain.

More than 300 holiday-makers caught up in the crash may lose between £400 and £600 on average, although a few paid as much as £2,500 for their summer breaks. Those who paid in cash should write off their losses, since the company has no money with which to pay them. Their only alternative would be to take legal action against Ian Chapple, the Vacances director, to recover some of their losses. But he now claims to be penniless, and early enquiries have not revealed any extra funds that could be used as compensation.

Far better off are those customers who paid Vacances

directly by credit card. Under the Consumer Credit Act (1974), they should be able to claim full compensation from their credit card issuer. In simple terms, credit card companies become responsible for a supplier of services that fails to deliver the goods, where at least £100 is involved.

Since Vacances failed to keep its side of the bargain, Barclaycard, Visa, Access or any other credit card used should be prepared to make amends.

Customers who paid using charge cards such as American Express or Diners Club are not so fortunate, since the consumer credit rules do not apply.

Credit card companies may technically refuse to pay compensation to customers who took out a card before 1977, since it was only then that the relevant legislation became effective. "It only strictly applies to agreements signed after 1977," said Carolyn Brock, a barrister with the Consumers' Association. "This is not something which has been tested in the courts, but we would argue that all credit card companies have a moral duty to their customers."

Also to face difficulties are those Vacances customers who arranged their holiday through a local travel agent. For even if they paid by credit card, there may have been no breach of contract—at least as

far as the agent and the credit card company are concerned. If the travel agent passed on an order form from a brochure, they are unlikely to accept liability. But if tickets were issued in the agent's name, they may be liable as an intermediary. A call or letter to the credit card company is the only way to find out.

Beyond the armoury of consumer credit legislation, many credit card issuers have developed rules of their own to give customers extra security. Visa or Mastercard, for instance, may be prepared to reimburse customers who spent less than £100.

Barclaycard has already settled several Vacances claims in full, and is urging customers who lost money to write to them, rather than telephone, including as much evidence as possible to support their case.

"People who want to claim should write to the address on their credit card statement, including receipts, booking forms and any other evidence," Barclaycard said. Some creditors claim to have run into difficulties with their credit card companies over the collapse. But the main issuers report few problems. Lloyds Access said it was not aware of any problems, while Midland said claims were either being processed or had been paid.

JON ASHWORTH

Savers applying for gross interest to be warned of tax investigation

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

SAVERS who apply to have interest paid gross when composite rate tax (CRT) is scrapped next year are to be warned on the application form that their records may be subject to investigation by the Inland Revenue.

The strongly-worded warning was the final stumbling block in the negotiations between the Inland Revenue and the banks and building societies on the self-certification form for non-taxpayers.

The savings institutions felt it should be prominently displayed on the form while the Inland Revenue favoured a more discreet reference to possible checks in the accompanying leaflet.

The institutions were keen that savers know what outside scrutiny their financial affairs might come under if they signed the forms and this was agreed this week.

They hope that they might have reduced the scope of such enquiries though. Originally, it was intended that the Inland Revenue should be able to investigate any accounts and associated records relating to a non-taxpayer.

And if one of the accounts was a joint one then the Revenue wanted to investigate all the accounts of the other person.

Now the Inland Revenue is on the point of accepting that only the records of people who have self-certified themselves as non-taxpayers should come under scrutiny and that joint accounts will not be searched for evidence of higher earnings where only one of the account holders is self-certified.

The Revenue has also assured the banks and building societies that there are no sinister implications in the draft regulations that have been issued on investigating accounts. The regulations allow the Inland Revenue to look at all accounts.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue said that the regulations were "widely drawn" but that the "sole purpose was to audit gross-paying accounts".

The financial institutions are wary. They know that the maximum gain to a taxpayer in declaring themselves a non-taxpayer to obtain gross interest would be about £750 a year.

One bank executive said: "The cost of investigating gross-paying accounts cannot be justified by the occasional loss of £750 to the Revenue. We feel that they will be looking at accounts and seeking also to find evidence of other undeclared income."

Taxpayers could find more information being supplied to the Inland Revenue about their savings than at present as a result of the abolition of CRT. Currently building societies detail interest earned by all individuals who receive more than £1,400 a year and



The Inland Revenue scrutinises savers tucked away behind the Courtyard Institute Galleries' new home at London's Somerset House.

banks send a list of interest earned above £500.

The Inland Revenue wants to bring the two into line and would like to receive details of all interest paid on all accounts, but talks are continuing on this issue because of the cost implications of providing the information.

The Revenue has told banks and building societies that it wants these records to divide interest for joint accounts and to provide full information on children's accounts. This will cause difficulties for the systems of the institutions which do not currently divide the interest on joint accounts and may not have addresses for children if an account is taken out by a grandparent or other relative.

Many savers may be nervous about the certification because of the invasive powers of the Revenue which will allow them access not only to the details of cash flowing into and out of an account but also to notes made at interviews for loan applications or other reasons.

The forms and explanatory leaflets should be printed in the next few weeks by the Inland Revenue and will be available from all banks, building societies, libraries,

and post offices, and may even be inserted in magazines.

About 14 million savers with about 35 million accounts will be eligible to sign the forms and earn interest gross. Several million more may be able to claim back part or all of the tax deducted from their savings at the end of the tax year when it becomes clear how much of their savings income should escape tax.

It will be very difficult for many people to state categorically in December, when the forms first become available, that they will not earn enough in the year between April 6 1991, and April 5 1992, to make them taxpayers.

The tax allowances that dictate the amount people can earn before they pay tax will not be fixed for 1991-2 until the Budget in March.

Interest rates are high now and may be into the beginning of the next tax year, but they are widely predicted to fall in the run up to a general election.

This makes it very difficult for anyone whose income is nearing the current tax allowance to work out whether they will be under or over next year's allowance.

Banks and building societies will be expected to keep

the forms as part of their customer records, but customers will not be given a copy.

The forms will have one box on which to enter the account number, but if a person has more than one account at the same branch of a bank or building society they can put all the details on one form. Those non-taxpayers who have worked in the past three years will be expected to include their national insurance number on the form, but others will not have to provide the number.

Interest will then be paid gross during the next tax year with a further declaration being required each subsequent tax year. If earnings rise above the tax threshold after signing the declaration the onus will be on the investors to inform the building society or bank straightaway.

Those savers who are late completing the self-certification forms may still be able to obtain gross interest from their bank or building society. The Inland Revenue had agreed to allow retrospective payments but will not compel institutions to provide them. This means that if interest is paid on April 6 and the form is

filled in on April 10 the interest would already have been paid net of basic rate tax. Normally the investor would have to wait until the end of the tax year and then claim back the tax.

If an institution offers retrospective then the deducted tax will be credited to the account as soon as the certificate has been processed.

Keith Flint, of the Abbey National, who leads the bank's special team on CRT, said: "The Inland Revenue is encouraging us to do it so they will not have to deal with lots of claims at the end of the tax year. It will also avoid crazy rushes into branches the day before interest payments are due."

The Inland Revenue will allow joint accounts to be held by a tax-exempt and a taxpayer partner, but will not compel institutions to let couples do this. It will be up to the bank or building societies rules whether they will be able to operate in this way.

Generally, building societies will find it easier to offer such facilities whereas banks are concerned that by allocating interest in equal part they will be signifying a trust that entitles each partner to half the account and no more.

Where it is possible for "mixed" couples to retain a joint account it will be better for them financially. The non-taxpayer will not have to wait until the end of the year to claim back any tax paid. Splitting the money into two accounts could put them both in lower interest rate bands and cause difficulties if one partner dies.

Parents and guardians will have to fill out forms for exemption for children under 16. Any money from parents must produce less than £100 interest a year if it is to be exempted from tax, but there is no limit on money from other people, other than the child's tax allowance. As soon as a child is 16 he or she will have to sign a self-certification form.

Tony Surridge, the senior manager at National Westminster Bank who is CRT project leader, said that the forms had been designed to be as simple as possible but that the circumstances of many savers were not straightforward. He hopes that customers will fill in the forms early.

"We would like them all in place by April 6. It could take three to four months to load the information on to the computers."

"We cannot build a system until every detail is sorted out."

Savers will be required to declare that they believe they will not be taxpayers in the year from April 6 in order to obtain interest paid gross. When CRT is scrapped all other savers will have basic rate tax deducted at 25 per cent instead of CRT which is currently 22 per cent.

SIB pursues £3m placed in high interest fund

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) is trying to trace money placed in a high interest fund guaranteeing to pay 30 per cent a year. Up to £3 million is thought to have been invested in the fund by 100 people. It was said to invest in Eurobonds and was based in Europe.

SIB's investigation follows the compulsory winding up of a Belfast investment firm this week in the High Court. The action against Edward J McCann Brokers of Portadown, County Armagh, and Edward John James McCann and Imelda McCann arose after complaints by investors to the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra).

The brokers, which operated from

premises at Mandeville Street, Portadown; Bulloch House, Linenhall Street, Belfast; and Texaco House, Ballsbridge, Dublin was suspended by Fimbra on July 25.

The Belfast High Court, in addition to appointing Eric Bell, of EDO Binder Hamlyn, provisional liquidator, also placed injunctions upon Mr and Mrs McCann restraining them from conducting investment business and preventing the disposal of any assets.

The firm, which had a sales team of 12, was authorised to sell unit trusts, pensions and life assurance.

The regulators have found no trace of the offshore money and are unclear how much was invested because some investors have been reluctant to come

forward. The investigations are also being hampered by lack of co-operation from Mr McCann and inadequate records at the firm.

Last month a warrant was issued for the first time under the Financial Services Act to allow Fimbra to search the broker's business premises. The investigators were concerned by the "absence of records" when they undertook the search.

Fimbra this week terminated the membership of nine firms and revoked their authorisation to carry on investment business. Four suspensions follow disciplinary hearings. Grangestad Finance of Cornmarket Street, Oxford, and Investment Planning Services of Harehills Lane, Leeds, had repeatedly failed to re-

spond to correspondence from Fimbra on matters including financial returns. No details were given on the disciplinary proceedings against Kumal Agencies of Old Wool Lane, Cheddle Hulme, Cheshire, or David F. Dorman Financial Services of Park Lane, Tilehurst, Reading.

Pembroke Investment Management of Hanover Street, London W1, had ceased to employ or engage any registered individuals. Equity and General Finance of Cheval Place, Knightsbridge, London, had been declared insolvent and placed in administrative receivership and Sterling Finance of Western Road, Hove, Sussex, had failed to respond to correspondence and pay fees. Three other firms failed to pay fees.

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SAVE & PROSPER
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Numbers man plays safe with the Sears empire

By CAROL LEONARD

The late Sir Charles Clore, founder of Sears, the Selfridges to Mappin & Webb and British Shoe Corporation conglomerate, once told Geoffrey Maitland Smith, its present chairman, that if an accountant ever became chairman of a company the first thing you should do is sell its shares.

Maitland Smith, hand-picked by Clore, is a chartered accountant.

"He said it with a twinkle in his eye," Maitland Smith adds. "But I knew what he meant. He meant that it would be too safe. He would certainly take more risks than I would. But if we had done half the things he suggested, the company would have gone bust years ago."

Cynical retailing analysts in the City will smile at Clore's words. Given the benefit of hindsight they would be inclined to agree. Sears shares have performed badly. Maitland Smith would be the first to accept that the company's stock market valuation is too low. It is capitalised at £1.4 billion, making it the fourth largest retailing group in Britain, after Marks and Spencer, Boots and Kingfisher. It has 4,004 retail outlets — 1,000 of them concessions — in 740 towns. But according to some calculations, Sears' break up value is closer to £2.3 billion.

"He is a terribly nice man, very charming, but as a businessman he is seriously unimpressive," says one retail analyst. "He doesn't know a lot about retailing, he sometimes comes out with the most ludicrous statements and people are slightly puzzled by him. They don't know what to make of him."

"He is chubby and complacent," says another. "Full of homespun wisdom. He talks a great deal but does little. He looks like Noel Coward. You can just imagine him in a smoking jacket with a cigarette and playing bridge. He ought to be a knight. Sir Geoffrey sounds so right. But he's not. It is probably a bone of contention."

He and Michael Pickard, the Sears chief executive, are apparently known as twiddle dum and twiddle dee in the trade.

But Maitland Smith, 6ft 11ins tall and with almost military bearing, is anything but chubby. He does have a vaguely aristocratic air and he is certainly charming. But what none of his City followers acknowledge is his humility. Probably because he keeps it so well hidden. To reveal it more freely would, he argues, be a sign of weakness.

Maitland Smith is a difficult man to understand. He is the sort of man who takes many years to really know. "I don't have that many real friends," he says. "Perhaps two or three. All men. And I'm not an extrovert. I go to parties but I don't really look forward to them. But be careful how you write that, won't you?" If he has to speak in public he will, he says, worry about it for six weeks beforehand. Hardly the admission of a complacent man.

Upon closer acquaintance he could be mistaken for shy. There may be an element of that. He is not quite sure, when you ask him. But a more accurate analysis is probably that it is his deep-seated and rigorous self-discipline that keeps so much of his inner soul so painstakingly concealed.

When discussing his close personal friends he is appalled by my suggestion that they might be the sort of people he would turn to if ever faced with a domestic crisis. "That would mean a shoulder to cry on — I would never cry on someone's shoulder. Why not?" "It would be a sign of weakness," he replies, as if stating the obvious. But when his father, a career civil servant, died last year, he admits, somewhat reluctantly, that he did

BUSINESS PROFILE

Geoffrey Maitland Smith

cry on his wife's shoulder. "That surprised me. Because I didn't know that I could cry. I think crying is a shortcoming."

In response to his critics in the City, Maitland Smith argues that although the analysts — "who couldn't even run a sweet shop" — might complain, he has heard no such dissent from the 35 institutional or corporate shareholders (the Fayed's own 11 per cent) who speak for 50 per cent of Sears shares.

He admits that the company has pressing problems with British Shoe Corporation — 25 per cent of all shoes now sold in Britain are trainers — and its menswear retailers, Home Brothers and Fosters, "but we are doing something. And I'm confident that within a period of time we will get it right." Analysts in the City would argue that he has been too slow to take such action and may have left it too late.

But although he might be slow to take action, he stands up well to comparisons with some of the high profile retailers of the Eighties, such as George Davies, Sir Ralph Halpern, Sir Terence Copran and Sir Philip Harris.

Over the years the press have pointed to people like Halpern and Copran and said "Why can't you do it like that?" I used to look at them in wonderment. Shops that were magic to look at, using the best shop-fitters and designers, but had no life. They were so fashionable and brilliant that they could not last long.

"Of course I felt apprehensive at times, because we weren't going that way. But I knew that I would have to write such expenditure off over three years, instead of over ten years like normal. Yet they thought they could still write it off over ten years." But their demise does not, he says, "give me any satisfaction."

"The important thing as a retailer is to be able to move if

'I do not want to sell the family silver. You invest in a company because it is a safe haven. In the end the proof is in earnings per share and dividends'

M&S moves, or if a bus stop moves. You must be flexible. But if you've spent all that money on a brilliantly designed shop, you can't suddenly uproot it."

Perhaps that traditional caution instilled in the accountancy profession has paid dividends after all.

"I do not think it is right to go for a quick buck. For short term improvement. I do not want to sell the family silver. You invest in a company because it is a safe haven, because you want improved earnings and dividends. In the end the proof is in earnings per share and dividends. Somewhere down the line there's a pension fund to be paid."

But those disgruntled analysts in the City claim that Sears hides its poor profit performance behind a generous dividend policy.

They also speculate about the relationship between Maitland Smith and Pickard. Both men are 57, which could leave the company with a succession problem. "We have dinner occasionally, but we don't do a lot together



'I love being able to influence things. It's a form of power': Geoffrey Maitland Smith and his third wife, Lucy, who he met at Sears, at their home in London

socially," Maitland Smith begins. "There's the right amount of abrasiveness between us, the right amount of argument. Of course there are times when we disagree, but we resolve it by arguing it through. People might get worried if they saw us. But it doesn't get heated. If one of us weren't happy with the outcome, we would see the privately, I think."

Maitland Smith's role is perceived as being that of the strategist, while Pickard is more the hands on man manager. But when asked to define his job more specifically, Maitland Smith replies: "That is a very difficult question to answer. I do everything. I'm the chairman."

He claims that he does not care what the analysts think and he insists that he does take risks. "I enjoy taking risks. I'm at my happiest when I'm doing a deal, but I am also cautious. If someone has a good idea and wants to open ten or 20 shops, my caution will restrict us to three or four before we roll it out further. Some people might criticise me for that. For not doing more, sooner. But I do not throw money around. I'm the sort of person who always switches the lights off. And I don't believe in getting ten out of ten. I'm quite happy if we can achieve seven out of ten."

The other thing Sears' followers always allude to, when you mention the name of Geoffrey Maitland Smith, is his unfailing ability to seek out the company of pretty women. He has been married three times, although he tries to avoid revealing that fact. "To me it represents a failure," Maitland Smith says. He omits any reference to his wives or children in his entry in *Who's Who*.

He has six children, two girls and four boys, with ages ranging from 16 to 34. Four of them are from his first marriage and two from his second. He met his first wife when he was articled to an accountancy firm in the Strand. "She was working in an artist's

studio." It was the hour-long commute from their home in Essex which caused the break up.

"I'm terribly impatient. I get dreadfully frustrated when I'm stuck in traffic. We now have a town house just off Albany, near Regents Park. A five-minute commute is quite enough for me."

His second wife was Italian. "The reason I speak so slowly is partly because so many thoughts are whizzing around in my head, and partly because her English was so bad that I had to speak like this to her all the time. There is, he says, no bitterness between him and his previous wives."

He met his present wife, Lucy, 18 years his junior, when she applied for a job as a temporary receptionist at the Sears head office in Duke Street. "It was very definitely love at first sight. I can still remember the strange feeling I had the first time I saw her. I remember thinking 'I could never have someone as attractive and

nice as that'. And it was mutual. She went home to her mother after her first day and said that she wouldn't be able to take the job — because she knew that something would happen between us. She did not even know that I was already married at the time."

But Lucy did take the job and something did happen. They married in 1986. "But as soon as we realised that our relationship was serious, she left the firm," Maitland Smith adds.

Lucy no longer works. "She is very busy looking after our two Burmese cats," he says. Every Friday morning she drives to their country retreat in Leicestershire with the cats, and he joins her in the evening. "She always meets me at Kettering station and on Sundays we make the same journey in reverse, but together."

They are clearly at their happiest when they are allowed to be creatures of habit. They go out to dinner, the opera, or ballet at least

two or three nights a week. Each outing is organised like clockwork. "I like things that work well and efficiently. Lucy is exactly the same. She is the sort of girl who is ready to go out within five minutes. But she is much more emotional than I am."

But for someone who admits that he now lives his life by neatly compartmentalising it — and who is proud of being chairman of the council of his old school, University College School, Hampstead — he reveals an entirely different side to his character when he talks about his school days. "I was dreadfully naughty. And although I got my matriculation, I was not an academic, not a scholar. I was more technically minded. When I was 17 the headmaster said I ought to leave, to become an accountant, because he thought I was commercially minded."

He used to make valve radios and sell them to the masters. He once unwound a reel of wire — used in the manufacture of the radios — round the classroom so that a master, as he paced up and down, became ensnared. "I got the cane for that." The one phrase that regularly cropped up on his school reports was: "He can do better."

And in his days as a partner at Grant Thornton he became, for a while, Paul McCartney's financial adviser, over-seeing the legal break up of the Beatles. He looks an unlikely man for the job.

But whether his City critics think he is the right man to be the chairman of Sears, Maitland Smith clearly enjoys it. "I love being able to influence things. It's a form of power. And I hate holidays. After three or four days I want to come back. I like to think I'm indispensable, I suppose."

"People often say that I'm immutable, very wry, that nothing flaps me. That's true if you look at me. But it's not true on the inside. There is a very different man in there."

Corporate warriors go over the top

CAPITAL CITY

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO



Tokyo workers: need to relax 15.3 days of their paid annual leave

THE behaviour of Japan's workforce appears to be baffling even the Japanese. A labour ministry report has found that workers still feel poor and say they have to live frugally even though the nation is rich. But bureaucrats at the nearby health and welfare ministry say the workaholic Japanese have only themselves to blame.

The health ministry has published a 38-page guide to explain to Japan's corporate warriors how to relax, how to stop treating the prospect of more time off as a threat, and how to have fun. The idea that anyone might need such guidance from their own government makes easy-going Italians in Tokyo shake their heads with disbelief.

The government's latest annual labour report found that 84.8 per cent of Japanese workers thought Japan was economically powerful, but less than half felt affluent. They complained of little free time, of long working hours and stingy holidays, of soaring land and house prices and of a widening gap between rich and poor — an awkward novelty in a society in which most people like to think of themselves as middle class.

The report said Japanese workers spent an average of 2,189 hours at the office or factory a year, between 230 and 550 hours more than their counterparts in America, Britain, West Germany and France. Only 30 per cent of Japanese work a five-day week, even though the government has been pressing employers to give their staff Saturdays off. Workers on average took only half of the

struggling to rebuild itself from the rubble of the second world war and have convinced themselves that any slacking will return the country to poverty overnight. The ministry is warning workers that constant overtime eats into their sleep, hurts the quality of their work and will lead to fatigue and illness.

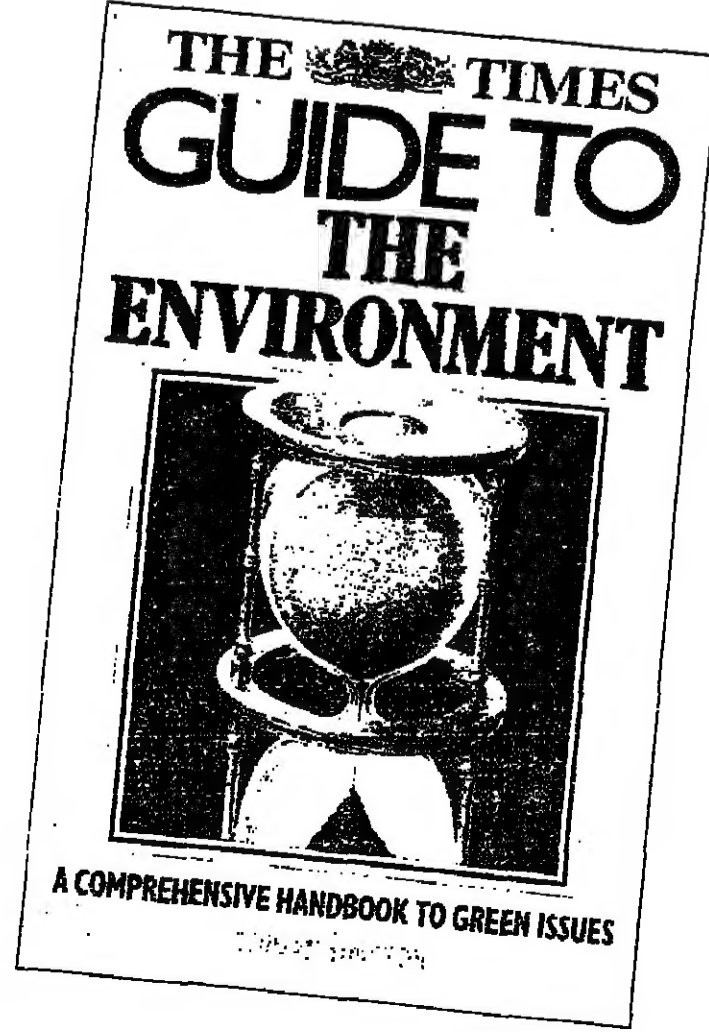
"Go to bed early and get up early, always eat breakfast, forget about the job after hours and eat dinner with your family," it advises. Most office workers still spend most of their evenings drinking and eating with colleagues or business contacts.

Undaunted by the odds stacked against it, the ministry is also trying to persuade the Japanese not to go on holiday, often to the same place, all at the same time. This puts a strain on Japan's already overcrowded airports, trains and motorways and frays everyone's nerves. It is also urging holidaymakers to take their foreign vacations at a leisurely pace rather than visiting every tourist site and boutique in Europe in five days. Get away from the office for a few weeks rather than just a few days, say the men at the ministry.

But the government booklet is unlikely to win round the millions of Japanese who think that taking time off is at best rather gloomy, at worst a sin. Wives complain that when their husbands somehow find themselves at home on a Sunday they do not have a clue how to spend their free time. Some men feel at such a loose end at home that they go into their office even on days off.

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'Intelligent' cards are finding their niche in a future walletless world

Cash: the microchips are down

Neil Bennett visits a country club where members are testing out the most advanced 'smart' cards

THE Dallington Country Club in Northampton is an unlikely vision of the future. The host to Britain's most ambitious smart card project is a rambling mock-tudor mansion, complete with gravel drive, wood panelled billiards hall and squash court extension.

But 18 months ago, Dallington's 2,000 members became guinea pigs in Britain's most advanced smart card experiment, courtesy of Bull HN, the French computer group, and Barclays Bank.

Once members were quite happy booking squash courts in the receptionist's diary and paying for it with old-fashioned cash. Now they cannot afford to be parted from their high-tech wallet-cum-personal organiser for the moment they arrive. Every member carries a smart card, the same size and weight as a normal credit card. But underneath a gold spot in the centre is a 24 kilobit silicon chip, with the power and versatility of the early home computers sold by BBC and Amstrad only 11 years ago. A typical magnetic stripe card can carry a maximum of 45 words of information. A smart card can hold several pages.

Like the club, its members seem blissfully unaware that they are on the leading edge of technology.

"When we started, about 5 per cent objected to the card," said Robin Townsend, the project manager. "and about 5 per cent were really keen. Most just didn't seem to mind."

The cards have 11 functions, the most of any smart card system in use in the world - but their main use is to book squash courts. Members go to reception to store money on their cards and then slot it into the nearest terminal.

This gives them a list of available times in the next two weeks. The card books the court, debits the £1.60 fee and records the playing time. It even runs a bonus point system, where the holder qualifies for a free court after paying for six.

The cash on the card can be spent in the bar, the café and the sports shop. The club's younger members have also discovered it can be used to store the winnings from the fruit machine, safe from prying hands and parental knowledge.

It uses stretch to the neon-lit gym. There, an instructor can fill the card with the results of a

fitness test with the help of an array of sinister apparatus. The card also carries emergency medical details, which can be accessed by an authorised club staff member.

The official experiment at Dallington ended earlier this year. In a survey, Barclays found that 5 per cent of the members had stopped carrying cash into the club, while almost a third were taking less in. Almost half liked the ability to load cash on to the card and use it as an electronic purse.

Barclays has deemed the trial a success, but is now puzzling over what it can do to transform the smart card into a commercial proposition. Satisfying 2,000 squash players is one thing, but finding a profitable reason to issue smart cards to Barclays' nine million members at ten times the cost of the traditional magnetic system is a universe away.

Mr Townsend sighs when he hears the card being called a solution searching for a problem.

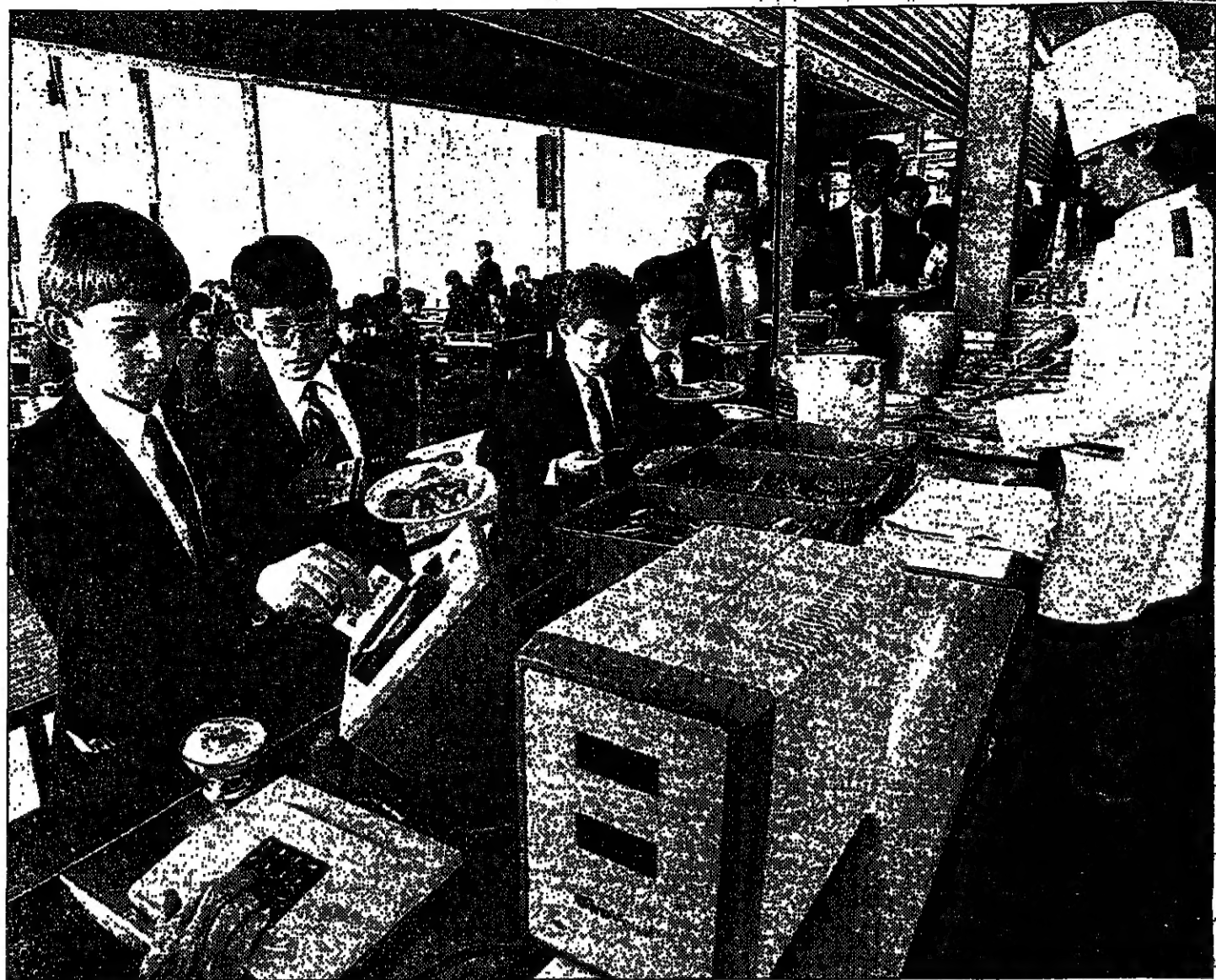
"We are positive this is the next generation of financial transaction cards. As competition between card issuers increases it will be used for value-added services."

He sees, for example, smart cards being used for electronic coupon collecting. Each time the owner buys a can of baked beans at the supermarket the card can log it. After so many cans, he will qualify for one free. Cards can also carry emergency information, accessible to ambulance drivers and casualty wards. Barclays' board will decide where to go with the smart card in the next few months.

There are already cards available with 64 kilobit memories, while scientists are now working on a new generation several times more powerful. Nestling in Mr Townsend's wallet is a super-smart card, a further leap in technology looking for a home.

Once again, it is little heavier than a credit card. But this time, on the back, it has a keypad and a screen. Not only can it be loaded with money, but the screen will say how much in eight different currencies and then remind its owner which time zone he is in. The user punches in a personal code on the card before he has access to the cash.

The card is already on test in Japan, where, inevitably, it was developed. The future may have only just begun for Northampton's squash players.



Chips with everything: students at Dulwich College are already using smart cards with magnetic stripes to pay for meals

Pupils get smart over school dinners

By TONY WILKINSON

BILLY Hunter might have been a streamline pupil if Greyfriars School had introduced the "semi-smart" card. His parents would have instructed his headmaster to program Billy's card so that the tuck-shop was out of bounds.

This is what is happening at Alleyns School in south London, the co-educational sister school to Dulwich College. Three years ago it introduced a cashless system in its canteen and buttery. Semi-smart cards that do not contain a microchip but have memories imprinted on magnetic stripes were issued to all 930 pupils.

Parents who did not want their children to have access to sweets and crisps from the buttery told the school to restrict the use of their cards accordingly.

Alleyns has also abolished the stigma of free school meals by use of the smart-card. As an independent school, it teaches many children from poor backgrounds who benefit from the assisted places scheme. Their cards are indistinguishable from those of their better-heeled classmates.

"Even the cashiers do not know who is getting free school meals," says Mike Morley, the bursar.

This week, Dulwich College followed the example of its sister school and introduced magnetic stripe cards in its two restaurants. It will use them to monitor the eating choices of pupils in the hope of introducing a better diet.

The advantages of smart cards have been seen by dozens of schools and universities who want cash-free catering and the ability to discriminate between various student and staff groupings. Multi-

national companies such as Esso and Unilever, and hospitals, leisure centres and golf clubs have also been quick to take an interest.

The majority want the cards for vending machines, canteen facilities, bars and entry systems, says Charles Trace, marketing development manager of GiroVend, one of the largest suppliers of semi-smart cards in Britain.

"But they can be used for many more services. Photocopying is now paid for by magnetic stripe cards in many institutions."

Subsidies can be built in discreetly. One university college gives discounted meals to fellows, masters and tutors. No-one knows from the appearance of the card or the display on the till how much subsidy is involved. Gardeners are given a free breakfast if they eat before 8.30 in the morning - the time limit is programmed into the system.

Corpus Christi was the first

college at Cambridge University to introduce semi-smart cards three years ago. It has prevented some students from drinking to excess by limiting their spending power in the college bar. In the canteen, the same cards also distinguish between students who live outside and those who are residents.

The other big advantage is the abolition of cash. Emmanuel College in Cambridge paid high insurance premiums when its canteen was operated on a cash-only basis.

"We introduced cards a year ago," said David Eivesy, the bursar. "Our insurance premiums were greatly reduced and we had to pay out less for security and cashiers' wages."

Mr Trace estimates that semi-smart cards pay for themselves over a period of five years. "Handling coins and notes wastes valuable time, especially in cash-

ing up. There is far less theft and vandalism too."

True smart-cards - those with a built-in microchip - are relatively rare in Britain, mostly because of the relatively high costs involved. The biggest user is Sky, the satellite television company. Pre-paid smart-cards are inserted into a decoder to receive its movie channel. New cards are issued every two to four months to prevent piracy.

Milton Keynes, in Buckinghamshire, has largely replaced bus tickets with 20,000 smart-cards, allowing prices to be adjusted with inflation and subsidies to be given to special groups such as pensioners and schoolchildren.

In Exeter, medical records have been incorporated into patients' cards to liaise between general practitioners, pharmacists and hospitals. Keyline, a scheme to use smart cards in home shopping and banking, is expected next spring.

SUMMARY

Louth to vote on merger

ONE of the smallest building societies, £7 million Louth Mablethorpe and Sutton with one branch in Lincolnshire is set to be swallowed up by a society more than a thousand times its own size.

The Bradford & Bingley, with assets of £8 billion, plans to merge with the Louth at the end of November. But before the merger can go ahead the Louth's 1,900 investors and borrowers must give the go-ahead.

Under the terms of the merger Louth investors will be paid a bonus of 0.85 per cent in early December and borrowers will have their mortgage interest reduced by 0.25 per cent for 12 months. B&B took over the Sheffield Building Society earlier this year.

Cautious touch



Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, has never been one to take chances. But his cautious approach has found little favour with City analysts seeking a more aggressive policy, as Carol Leonard discovered... Page 47

Worst funds

The dismal performance of unit trusts over the past year has made the choice of investment manager all the more important, as clients of Windsor Trust Managers have found to their cost. The Windsor Smaller Companies Trust was the worst performing unit trust in the year to September 1... Page 44

BES solution

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has become the first local authority in Britain to back a business expansion scheme to boost housing in the area. The scheme may go a long way towards solving the shortage of teachers and other skilled staff who desperately need accommodation... Page 43

Your views



The plight of the modest investor is taken up by Weekend Money readers who find it difficult to obtain a good price for parcels of shares... Page 45

Cheque out

Visitors to London who intend to open a bank account should be prepared for long delays, but they will fare no better in Paris... Page 42

Divorce cover

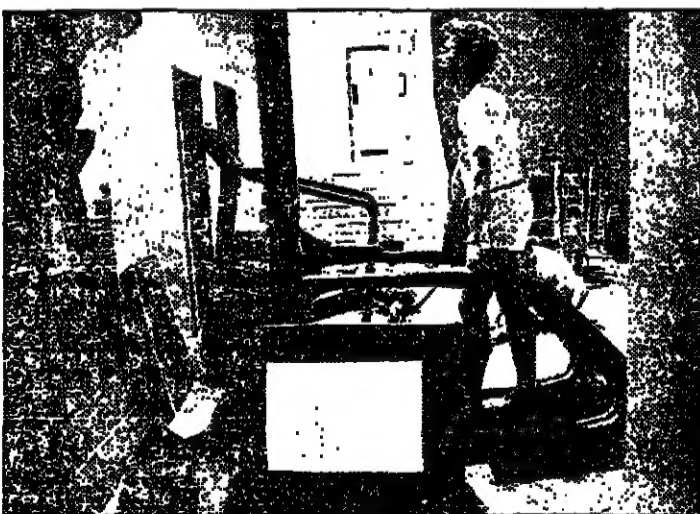
An insurance policy has been launched to support children of divorced or separated parents by protecting maintenance payments in the event of sickness, disability or death... Page 42

Early exit

Annuities are at their highest level ever, making it attractive for many people to consider early retirement... Page 41

Xmas cheer

Hopes that interest rates may fall by Christmas has encouraged mortgage lenders to unveil a clutch of new deals for homebuyers... Page 41



Workout: Neil Bennett's efforts are monitored on computer

Electronic memory unlocks door to care-free holidays

"JUST one ice cream? That will do nicely, sir," is not the response one would expect when offering certain credit or charge cards at a beach stall in some far-flung holiday resort. But for vendors at ten Club Méditerranée villages, plastic is better than cash (writes Tony Wilkinson).

For two years, Club Med has been using smart cards at the most modern of its 112 resorts. The personalised credit cards replace cash for every transaction during a visitor's stay.

Worries about foreign currency have been simply abolished. On arrival, holidaymakers are asked to hand over a credit card or charge card so that an imprint can be taken. This is the club's guarantee of payment.

Guests are then issued with credit card-sized pieces of plastic. Each has a small hole cut into the corner that allows the card to be hung around the neck with string. The card incorporates a micro-electronic chip with the same processing power as a small home computer.

Each costs the company about £4. A four-digit personal identification number is chosen by the

holidaymaker and secretly encoded on the card. From then on, every transaction he or she makes, from drinks at the bar to an expensive outfit from the boutiques, is logged on the card.

The cards have largely replaced the famous Club Med beads as the substitute for holiday money at the 10 villages where they have been introduced.

"People still want the beads for their children," said a spokeswoman. "Some parents do not like the idea of a child wandering round with unlimited spending power. There are some adults too, who buy beads as a substitute for cash. They feel they can keep better track of how much they are spending."

Receipts are given for goods or services paid for by smart card so that holidaymakers can keep their own running totals.

Direct dial telephone calls to anywhere in the world are made by inserting the card into the base of the handset. The cost is logged on the village's central computer and, along with all the other purchases, charged at the end of the stay.

"In effect, we extend the in-

terest-free period of your credit card by the length of your holiday," says Club Med.

"If you do not have a credit card we would accept a deposit of travellers' cheques or cash. If you spent more than your deposit, we would send you the bill for the balance when you arrived home."

Club Med plans to introduce powerful smart cards that will do more than just act as a personal credit facility.

They will be used as room keys, allow holidaymakers to book tennis courts or boat trips, read "what's on" information from screens and make appointments with the check-out desk so that they do not have to queue on the day of departure.

Eventually, details of a holidaymaker's bank account may be encoded to speed up the check-out formalities.

But there may be some limitations. At the Club Med holiday village in Marbella, Spain, for example, the local newspaper vendor whose stall is set up daily in the hotel foyer refuses to accept the smart-card.

"He will only take cash," said a Club Med spokeswoman.

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